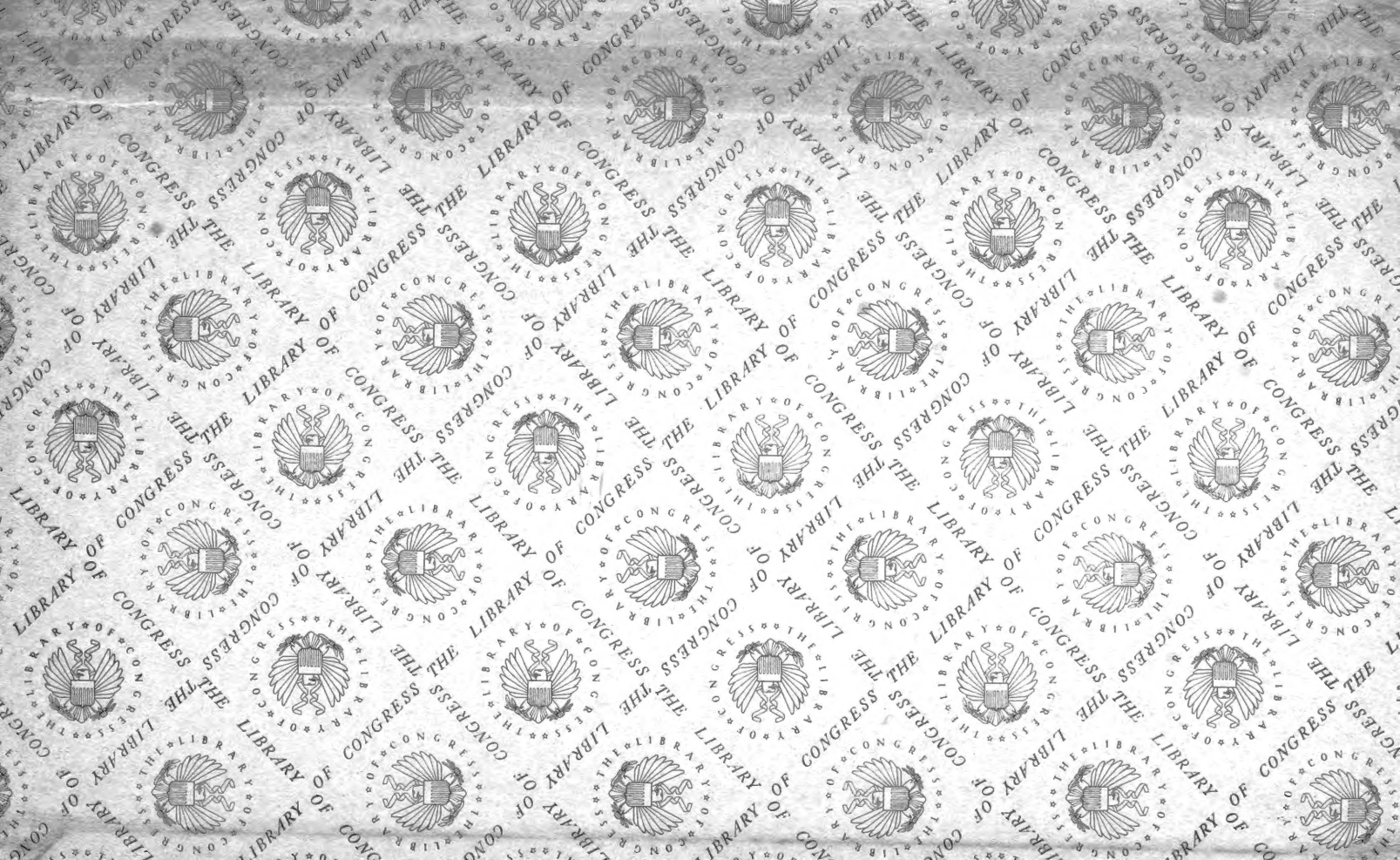
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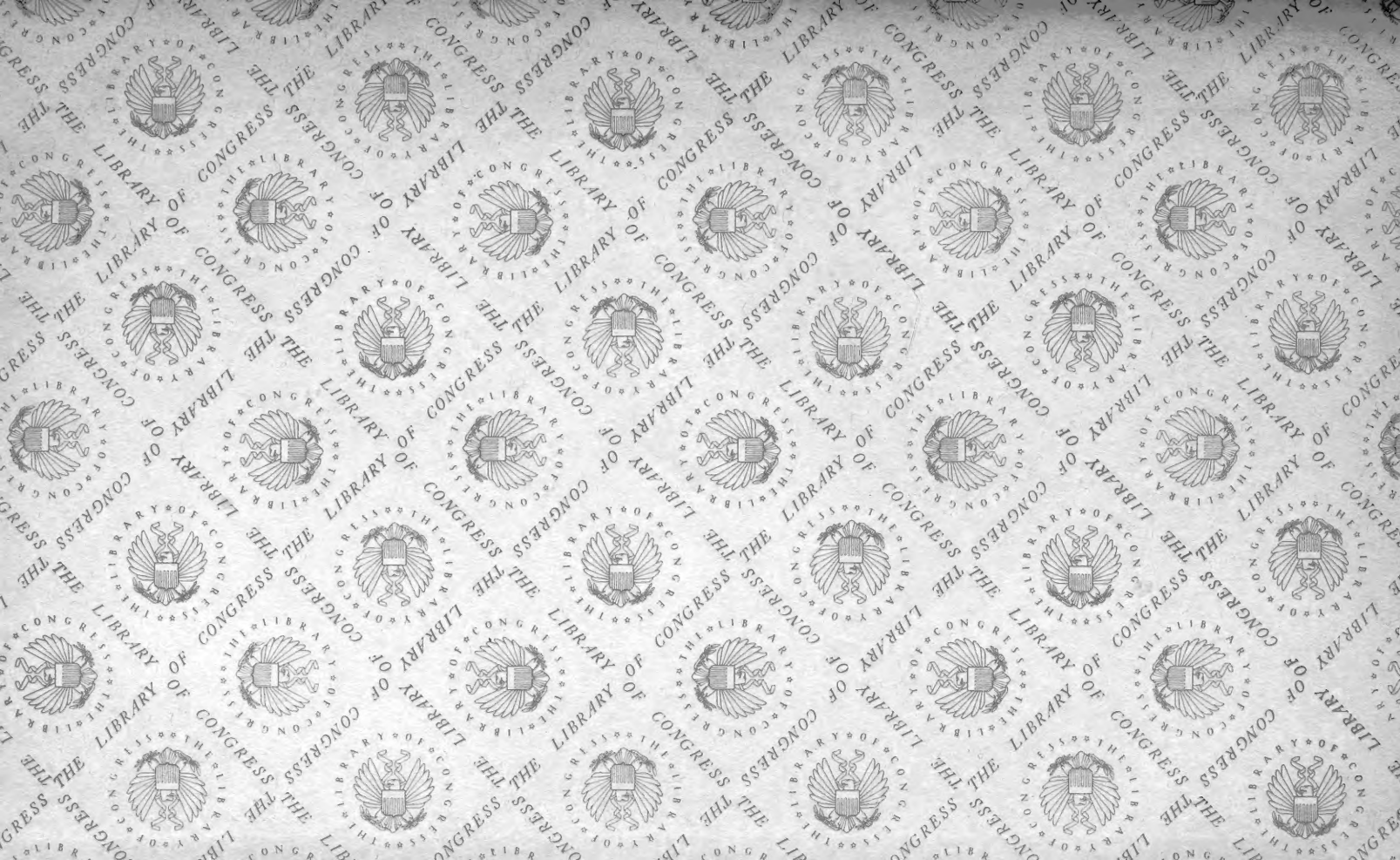
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62D CONGRESS, 1st Session | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DOCUMENT No. 93

SEAL ISLANDS OF ALASKA

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

TRANSMITTING IN RESPONSE TO HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 73, INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SEAL ISLANDS OF ALASKA

JULY 19, 1911.—Referred to the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce and Labor and ordered to be printed with illustrations

WASHINGTON
1911

H. 35777

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, June 24, 1911.

SIR: By direction of the President, and in response to House resolution No. 73, Sixty-second Congress, first session, I have the honor to transmit herewith for the use and information of the House of Representatives copies of all letters, reports, and documents received from agents of the department in charge of the seal islands of Alaska, together with copies of all instructions given to such agents, which relate to the condition and management of the fur-seal herd, the conduct of the officers of the Government in charge of it, and the conduct of the work of the lessees on the seal islands aforesaid, since January 1, 1904, to date.

Since every written communication from the seal agents to the department may be said to be included in the phrase "all letters received, reports, and documents," and since every communication from the department to the agents may be regarded as an "instruction" to such agents, I considered that it was the intention of the House that I should exercise no discretion in selecting the matter to be furnished on the basis of its materiality or usefulness in any inquiry which may be contemplated, and those assigned to the task of searching the files of the department for the past seven years or more were instructed to omit no communication of either sort mentioned from the papers to be gathered, copied, and transmitted. If I did not feel justified in withholding any paper, however unimportant, which seemed to be called for, neither did I feel warranted in transmitting anything which had not been requested. The result is that the documents submitted may possibly contain, on the one hand, much material of no value, and may fail to include, on the other hand, some material which would prove useful to a full understanding of the department's course of action in the premises. Such further material I may add, as well as all the files of the department relating to the administration of matters concerning the Alaskan seal fisheries, is at the disposal of the House, or any Member or committee thereof interested in the subject.

With reference to communications received from the seal agents relative to their ordinary expense accounts, including vouchers for salaries and expenses for traveling, subsistence, and incidentals, it is to be noted that the originals are not in the custody of this department, having been lodged with the Auditor for the State and Other Departments in regular course. With reference to such matters, the department retains only duplicates, memoranda, supplemental correspondence, occasional subvouchers, and the like. These are

transmitted intact, in order to avoid the expense of copying, and it is desired that they should eventually be returned to the department, unless their retention by the House is considered necessary. With reference to all other papers, except such as have been printed in public documents, photographic copies have been made, in order to save both the time and expense incident to copying by ordinary methods. The copies transmitted are made from the original or the original copy as contained in the department's files, except where such originals were too faint to photograph, in which case typewritten copies were made and photographed, as indicated in each instance.

Respectfully,

CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SEAL ISLANDS OF ALASKA.

1904.

Part I. Instructions to Agents and Agents' Reports.

July 1, 1903.

To whom it may concern:

It is hereby ordered that the appropriations for "Salaries and traveling expenses of agents at the seal fisheries in Alaska, 1904," "Supplies for native inhabitants of Alaska, 1904," and "Expenses, inspectors of pelagic sealskins, 1904" (Sundry civil act, Mar. 3, 1903), shall be expended under the immediate direction of the chief clerk of the department, subject to the supervision of the Secretary.

Geo. B. Cortelyou,
Secretary.

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Division of Alaskan Fisheries,
Washington, January 8, 1904.

Mr. F. H. Hitchcock,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

My Dear Mr. Hitchcock: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, wherein you remind me of a former request for an inventory of the various papers and documents in rooms 301–2, and to reply truthfully that I have no recollection of a request to inventory the entire contents of the room. I remember your asking me to make a list of some papers which came recently from the Treasury, relating to the leasing of fox islands, which I made in due time and have in my room ready for the typewriter.

The inventory of the remainder of the rooms' contents will be made at once.

Very truly, yours, W. I. Lembkey.

January 8, 1904.

Mr. W. I. Lembkey,
Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Dear Sir: This is to remind you of the request I made some time ago regarding an inventory of the various papers and documents deposited in the rooms you now occupy (Nos. 301 and 302), so far as these papers and documents relate to the Alaskan Fur-Seal Service. I am anxious to have such an inventory prepared as promptly as is feasible.

Very truly, yours, F. H. Hitchcock,
Chief Clerk.

JANUARY 9, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed herewith is a copy of a letter, with certain omissions, that was addressed to the Secretary under date of the 8th instant by Mr. Henry W. Elliott, of Cleveland, Ohio, on the subject of the Alaskan fur seals.

I shall be obliged if you will examine critically the data presented by Mr. Elliott and let me have your opinion as to their accuracy and as to the force of the arguments on which they are based. As the fur-seal question is now a matter of considerable urgency, owing to the radical nature of certain legislation now pending, such statements as you have to make covering the points raised in Mr. Elliott's letter should be submitted as promptly as possible.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

JANUARY 8, 1904.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I respectfully submit the following statements of fact, without adding any opinions of my own, as the basis of a proper request for prompt action on your part in order that the fur-seal species of Alaska shall not be completely destroyed, root and branch, on the Pribilof Islands during the coming season, under existing rules and regulations.

The commercial ruin of our fur-seal herd was effected at Paris, August 16, 1893. I will not advert to the errors of our own agents in charge of our case which led to this humiliating result. I should say at this point that I did all in my power in 1890 and 1891 to prevent the course mapped out and followed to defeat by these agents. My protests in November, 1890, and in January, 1891, to Mr. Blaine were in vain and I had nothing to say or do with the management of that case after the 6th day of January, 1891; my knowledge and understanding of the subject were ignored, and save the tardy and forced adoption of the modus vivendi of 1891–1893, which I urged in November, 1890, no argument or wish of mine prevailed in the preparation of this case. I am in no way responsible for the wretched conduct of that case of our Government before the Paris tribunal and its resultant shame and misery, to say nothing of the immense loss of public property also following.

Again in 1896–97 I urged Dr. Jordan not to make the serious and mischievous blunder of asserting that no excessive land killing of male seals could be done by the lessees; this sad error was first made at Paris by our agents; for him to repeat it later was inexcusable. To-day Dr. Jordan is confronted on these islands by the overwhelming evidence of his mistake—the land killing on the islands has been far more deadly to the existence of the fur-seal herd than has been the pelagic hunters' work; the following indisputable figures prove it. Dr. Jordan's "trampled-pup" theory and his hallucination over the idle work of branding the female seals, so as to destroy the value of their skins for the pelagic hunters, and his unfortunate joint agree-

ment of November 17, 1897, with his British associates, were and are great blunders which have attracted much uncomplimentary attention and have stirred the deep regret of his friends.

The figures and facts which I herewith present for your information and use declare that the bitter sequel of commercial ruin for our interests on the seal islands of Alaska is right at hand; that sequel is the immediate extermination of this anomalous, valuable, and wonderful marine life which must exist on the Pribilof group; but it can not and will not exist by its own law of life anywhere else.

By way of introduction to the following tabulated statements showing the rapid decline of the fur-seal herd since 1872 permit me to say that I am, fortunately, in possession of the complete and indisputable proof of my statement that 4,500,000 fur seals—cows, bulls, and pups—were in existence on the rookeries and hauling grounds of St. Paul and St. George Islands, in fine form and condition, during the seasons of 1872–1874, inclusive. I am fortunate in holding all of this indisputable and self-asserting evidence just as it was secured and recorded in 1872, 1873, and 1874; the original records, surveys in detail, and notes are mine. That point of departure in 1872–1874 enables me to authoritatively and clearly express to you the real loss of life which the Government has sustained in this ruin of its industry on the seal islands of Alaska; without it no adequate expression of the truth could be made by myself or anyone else which would be credible and accepted by the judicial mind. The first point to which I desire to draw your attention is the following official record of the loss of life on the seal islands of Alaska from 1872 down to 1903, inclusive:

Number of fur seals—males, females, and young.

1872–1874. The surveys of Elliott and Maynard; act approved Apr. 22, 1874.	4,500,000
1890. The survey of Elliott; act approved Apr. 5, 1890	1,059,000
1891. The Canadian-American Joint Commisson survey, "about"	1,000,000
1896. The Jordan-Thompson Joint Commission survey (p. 22 of Jordan's preliminary report, Treasury Department Doc. No. 1913)	440,000
1897. The Jordan-Thompson Joint Commission survey declares that "the rookeries on which the pups were counted show a reduction of 14.4 per cent" (i. e., 14.4 per cent fewer seals than in 1896)	376,640
1898. Report Secretary of the Treasury, page xxxiv, Dec. 6, 1898: "The conditions of the rookeries show a most apparent decrease in the numbers of seals frequenting the islands." No estimate of percentage of loss is made, but it can not be "most apparent" unless that loss of life is at least 12 per cent of the figures agreed upon in 1897, or	331,000
1899. Report Secretary of the Treasury, page xxxi, Dec. 5, 1899: "The condition on the rookeries shows a continued decline in the herd." ("The agent in charge reports a decline of 20 per cent" from the figures of 1898.—Report Secretary of the Treasury, p. xxxii, Dec. 4, 1900). This gives us	264,962
1900. Report Secretary of the Treasury, page xxxii, Dec. 4, 1900: "The agent in charge reports that the seal life on the islands in 1899 was 20 per cent less than in 1898." "The rookeries were examined during the past season by an agent of the Fish Commission." "He reports a decrease in the seal life on the rookeries as compared with former years." "Smaller seals were taken this year than ever before." Report United States Fish Commission, 1900, page 165: "The seals have been diminishing upon the breeding grounds for many years, the annual decrease during the past few years amounting to about 20 per cent." This testimony reduces the herd in 1900 to	233,962

1901. Report Secretary of the Treasury, page 38, Dec. 2, 1901: "The enumeration of live pups shows a marked falling off from the previous years." A "marked falling off" in the number of pups would not be noticed as such unless the percentage of loss was at least 12 per cent, or..... 204,887

1902. Report Secretary of the Treasury, page 30, Dec. 3, 1902: No mention or hint of any decrease in the herd in this report; but a set of erroneous figures is given for the pelagic catch of the year; only one-third of this catch is announced. Upon this false return of that catch is based an allegation that the pelagic hunter is retiring from business, and this retirement puts the "herd in a more stable condition," and that "it is not decreasing now as rapidly as heretofore." Also no reference whatever is made of the new "Japanese" sealing fleet which joined the Canadian fleet this season and has been busy all around the islands inside of the "60-mile zone;" no reference is made of this new power for destruction, although the department on Sept. 25, 1902, received an official report declaring that 16 of these vessels were thus engaged. Therefore, since the same forces of destruction which have been at work on the herd since 1896 have again been all actively employed with the addition of the "16 Japanese" vessels, it is only reasonable to declare a reduction of at least 12 per cent from the number allowed for 1901, and this gives us at the close of the season of 1902 not to exceed..... 180,000

Also, in this report of the Treasury Department for 1902 is omitted the statement of the special agent in charge of the islands in his report for this year, that "a careful count of harems made this year shows a falling off of 25 per cent of breeding bulls." The reason why this important fact is omitted is evident to any intelligent reader; it would utterly deny the Secretary's assertion that "the herd is in a more stable condition;" it is therefore suppressed.

1903. The Government agent declares that at the close of the season of 1903 the number of seals alive does not exceed..... 150,000

The season he refers to closes Aug. 1, 1903.

A recapitulation of the foregoing official record of the rate and progress of the decline of the fur-seal herd of Alaska shows, concisely, that there were in—

	Males, females, and young.
1872–1874	4,500,000
1890	1,059,000
1891	1,000,000
1896	440,000
1897	376,000
1898	331,000
1899	264,000
1900	233,000
1901	204,000
1902	180,000
1903	150,000

Also, a census of the fur-seal cows alone has been officially recorded since 1896, as follows:

1896 (Jordan's Report)	157,405
1897 (Jordan's Report)	134,582
1900 (United States Fish Commissioner's Report)	100,000
1901 (Special Agent, Treasury Department, Report)	91,236
1902 (Special Agent, Treasury Department, Report)[1]	94,882

Certainly true it is that these bulls are "falling off." They are dying of old age on these rookeries and no new blood has been permitted to reach these breeding grounds since 1896, so as to fill the

[1] This increase of some 5 per cent in cows over the figures of 1901 is a self-evident blunder, because its author in his report of 1902 says: "A careful count of harems made this year shows a falling off of 25 per cent of breeding bulls."

vacancies thus created; and it is equally certain and true that the same annual loss of cows has taken place in 1903 which has marked the preceding seasons, since there has been no cessation of the work of slaughter on land and in the sea in all of those years, and there is none to-day.

The next point in order is the following analysis of the status of the male life on the rookeries or breeding grounds, which clearly shows the total elimination of this life by 1907 under existing rules and management.

In 1872–1874 there were some 90,000 breeding bulls and 1,250,000 cows (primipares, multipares, and nubiles), showing a birth rate of 1,125,000 pups.

In 1890 this herd was reduced to some 14,000 breeding bulls and about 420,000 cows (primipares, multipares, and nubiles), showing a birth rate of 380,000 pups.

In 1896 this herd was still further reduced to some 5,000 bulls and about 144,000 cows (primipares, multipares, and nubiles), showing a birth rate of 130,000 pups.

In 1903 this herd is reduced to some 2,200 bulls and about 75,000 cows (primipares, multipares, and nubiles), showing a birth rate of 68,000 pups.

These 2,200 breeding bulls of 1903 are the survivors of those young males which were spared in 1890 and by the modus vivendi of 1891–1893, and thus allowed to grow up to the age of 6 years, and then take their places in 1894, 1895, and 1896 on the rookeries as 6 and 7 year old "seecatchie."

In 1894 and in 1895 a few hundred 4-year-olds may have escaped the club on the killing grounds and thus came in as 6-year-olds in 1896 and 1897.

But in 1896 no 3-year-old seal was passed over the killing grounds which was not killed in 1897 as a 4 year old.

And in 1897 and 1898 no 3-year-old seal escaped the killer's club, except to die on the killing grounds as a 4-year-old in 1898 and 1899.

And in 1899 no 2-year-old seal was permitted to escape on these grounds unless to die as a 3-year-old in 1900.

And in 1900 no well-grown yearling seal was spared on these slaughter fields except to perish as a 2-year-old in 1901.

And in 1901 every yearling that came ashore was taken, and if a few escaped they met the club in 1902 sure, as 2 year olds.

And in 1902 every young male seal that landed was taken, so that out of 22,199, 16,875 were "long" and average yearlings, or "5-pound" or "eyeplaster" skins.

In this clear light of the close killing of the young male life as given above, it will be observed that no young or fresh male blood has been permitted to mature and reach the breeding grounds since 1896.

The average life of a breeding bull is from 15 to 18 years; he does not keep his place longer for good and obvious reasons. The youngest bulls to-day upon that breeding ground are not less than 12 years old—most of them older. They are now rapidly dying of old age—witness the following:

An official report in 1902 declares that these breeding bulls had decreased in number from 1901 to the end of 1902 at least 25 per cent.

An official report in 1903 again declares a decrease from 1902 to the end of this season (1903) of 17 per cent; 42 per cent since 1901.

The close of the season of 1904 will show at least 20 per cent reduction again; and in 1905 again 20 per cent at least, to entirely cease by 1907 unless steps are taken at once to stop the run on this life by land (and sea killing) clubbing in 1904 of the choice young male seals, yearlings and upward, to the end of the season of 1906—stop it entirely.

I now submit a tabulated statement, which is in the form of a prophecy, based upon the foregoing figures of fact, with the reasons guiding my forecast.

A table which shows the annual rate of progress in the extermination of the fur-seal herd of Alaska which will take effect under existing rules and regulations by 1907 unless checked in 1904:

Pribilof Island seals on the islands.

Class.	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Old bulls (youngest to-day 12 years)	2,200	1,650	1,165	400	150	(?)	None.
Pupping cows, Aug. 1	65,000	56,250	37,885	22,825	15,000	5,000	3,000
Virgin cows, Aug. 1	10,000	5,000	3,000	2,800	500	None.	.....
Pups, born June and July	65,000	56,250	37,885	20,000	10,000	5,000	None.
Male yearlings, Aug. 1	1,000	500	300	300	(?)	None.	.....
Female yearlings, Aug. 1	10,000	6,000	4,000	2,000	500	(?)	None.
Total	153,200	125,650	84,235	48,625	26,250	10,000	3,000
Land catch to Aug. 1	19,252	16,000	8,000	(?)	None.	.....	.....
Pelagic catch to Nov. 1	25,000	20,000	15,000	12,000	10,000	6,000	None.
Total	44,252	36,000	23,000	12,000	10,000	6,000	(?)

Owing to the fact that the youngest of these old breeding bulls is at least 12 years old in 1903, and that the service imposed upon it, as a rule, ends in the sixteenth and eighteenth year of its age, this life is rapidly dying off and will entirely go by the end of the season of 1907; 42 per cent of its form in 1901 disappeared by 1903.

No young male seal above 2 years of age will appear next season (1904) on the hauling grounds, unless an order prohibiting the killing of all choice male seals above 10 months of age shall be made for the seasons of 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1907, on the seal islands of Alaska; no fresh young male blood can mature quickly enough to come onto the breeding grounds and save the birth rate from total collapse in 1907. Even if this is done, it will be a close call for that life anyhow. To postpone such an order to 1905 would be too late, if the species itself is to be saved from complete extirpation. This result will ensue as sure as fate, unless the killing is at once held up on the seal islands.

The full number of old bulls carried on this table from 1903 to 1907 represents all that will be seen in those years and alive on the breeding grounds; but this number is greater every season than the real number of virile or potent sires; for instance, in 1903 we count 2,200 old bulls, but a large number of them lay upon the rookery without cows. Why do they thus lay idle when the bulls in active service around them have more than twice as many cows in 1903 as they should have were the service normal on this field? These bulls were somnolent and idle in 1903 when the cows in the harems around them increased from a normal ratio of 22 females to 1 male sire to 44 cows to the bull.

They were thus idle because they had lost through age the vigor to attract and control a harem. I saw this state of affairs on these breeding grounds in 1890 and raised the note of alarm then, for the first time; stopped the killing on July 20, when only 19,000 of the 60,000 quota had been taken, and forced my modus vivendi through, which took effect in 1891, 1892, and 1893.

And these bulls which we see alive on the breeding grounds now, and will continue to observe until 1907, are the survivors of the young male 2, 3, and 4 year olds which were saved in 1890, 1891, 1892, and 1893, plus a few 3 and 4 year olds which may have slipped through in 1894 and 1895.

Since 1896 no fresh young male blood has been permitted to pass the club on the killing grounds of St. Paul and St. George, and the effect of utterly shutting off the birth rate by 1906 and 1907 is plainly exhibited in the analysis tabulated above.

In further explanation and justification of the foregoing anticipation of the complete extermination of the male life on the Pribilof Islands by 1907, I submit the following table made up from the annual record of London sales, where all of the Pribilof fur-seal skins have been sold since 1870, which shows how completely the young male fur-seal life has been and is being eliminated; the very dregs of that life composed nine-tenths of the catch of 1902 and fully nine-tenths of the catch of 1903.

Year.	"Prime" or 8 to 9 pound skins (3 and 4 year olds).	"Short" or 5½ to 6 pound skins (2-year-olds).	"Eyeplaster," 4½ to 5 pound skins (1-year-olds).	Total.	Remarks.
1872.....	100,000	None.	None.	100,000	Secured in four working weeks, June and July.
1890.....	3,588	10,048	7,314	20,950	Lessees tried to get 60,000 prime skins; could not; killing stopped July 20.
1891.....	2,251	10,000	.....	12,251	Modus vivendi; killing restricted to 7,500.
1892.....	5,549	2,000	.....	7,549	Do.
1893.....	7,500	.....	.....	7,500	Do.
1894.....	12,000	4,031	.....	16,031	Lessees tried to get 30,000 prime skins; could not.
1895.....	10,500	4,500	.....	15,000	Do.
1896.....	8,000	16,000	6,000	30,000	Lessees take full quota, but fail in prime skins.
1897.....	5,000	12,960	3,000	20,960	Lessees refuse full quota of 30,000; no prime skins and does not pay to take small ones.
1898.....	3,000	8,000	7,031	18,031	Prices advance 15 per cent in December.
1899.....	2,700	5,500	9,000	16,812	Prices advance in London market 20 per cent, so small skins are taken.
1900.....	2,200	6,000	14,000	22,470	High prices warrant taking "eyeplasters."
1901.....	1,826	4,886	16,000	22,672	Do.
1902.....	1,311	3,903	16,878	22,092	Do.
1903.....	646	1,500	13,034	15,180	Only 15,180 skins out of 19,212 taken this year were sold Dec. 17, 1903. A decline of 10 per cent in the price caused the balance of the catch to be held over for the March sales, 1904.

Observe that the "prime" or 3 and 4 year old male skins run down from 12,000 in 1894 to 1,311 in 1902, while the "eyeplasters" or yearling males run up from nothing in 1894 to 16,878 in 1902. These figures show beyond contradiction or argument that nothing of the male life is left on the seal islands of Alaska worth notice, except the pups born last summer, and which will be killed by the lessees in 1904 as "eyeplasters."

In the light of the foregoing statements of fact, am I not warranted in asking that you at once suspend all killing on the islands by the lessees for the seasons of 1904, 1905, and 1906; and that only such young males as may be necessary for natives' food be killed thereon during those seasons, solely under the direction of your agents, the skins of which can be carefully preserved and sold by the Government—the proceeds thereof turned into the public Treasury?

You can not divide the authority for killing on the islands in the present condition of affairs between your agents and the agents of the lessees, without scandal, confusion, and failure.

You have full and ample power to suspend all killing of seals by the lessees under the distinct terms of their lease, whenever the preservation of that life is at stake, and which you are especially charged by Congress to preserve; the lessees have no recourse on the Government, under existing conditions, if you suspend their operations indefinitely, by the express terms of this lease, and which was drawn by Mr. Windom in March, 1890, for the very purpose of meeting just such a contingency as now arises. I know it, because I was consulted by him when he was drafting it.

Again, the lessees have no ground of complaint, legally or morally, if you entirely suspend their work; they have made an enormous profit annually since 1890, even through the short-killing of the modus vivendi in 1891–1893. The entire amount of their capital invested in the plant on these islands is only $67,000.

I have detailed figures which declare their annual profits since 1900 to have been simply enormous from a commercial standpoint; the fur trade has recognized the fact that the end of supply from the seal islands is near at hand; and since 1897 a steady, immense rise in price per skin, no matter how small, has taken place up to date, making the profits on the island catches and the pelagic catches way beyond the figures of greatest values ever known to the business since 1900.

This step which I ask you to take is provided for by existing law; there are other steps which I think you ought to take, but which you can not take until Congress acts; of them and about them I desire very much to confer personally with you.

I am, very respectfully,

Your friend and servant,

HENRY W. ELLIOTT,
1228 14th Street NW., Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, January 19, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR MR. HITCHCOCK: As requested in your letter of the 9th instant, I take pleasure in inclosing herewith memoranda containing a critical analysis of a letter addressed to the Secretary of this department on the 8th instant by Mr. Henry W. Elliott urging the cessation of killing on land of fur seals on the Pribilof Islands.

In my desire to make the analysis as succinct as possible, I have been forced to pass over with brief mention statements in his letter that would seem to demand much more ample treatment

While I have dealt with his communication in detail from the standpoint he assumes—that faulty land killing has been the cause of the decrease of the herd—I desire to state that no argument which alleges this cause of diminution can be substantiated. The killing of female seals at sea is the true reason for the diminution of seal life, and any argument based on any other hypothesis must necessarily succumb to the known facts at hand.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Memoranda of comments on statements in letter of Henry W. Elliott, regarding seal life on Pribilof Island.

On page 1, paragraph 3, Mr. Elliott states at the outset that he has "complete and indisputable proof" of the existence of 4,500,000 seals during 1872–1874. That this statement is not accepted without challenge is shown by the analysis of Mr. Elliott's estimate in Dr. Jordan's report. (Fur Seal Inves. Com., pt. 1, pp. 77 et seq.)

Dr. Jordan states (p. 78) that Elliott's estimates were based on "two important assumptions." First, that all animals were present on land between July 10 and 20, and second, that the breeding seals were equally distributed on the several breeding grounds. He therefore measured the breeding area, allotted 2 square feet for each animal and reached his conclusion.

Both of these assumptions Dr. Jordan states, were "incorrect." As the seals are never all present on land at once and the allotment of 2 square feet for a female seal 4 feet long with a spread of 4 feet, and without any provision for the space occupied by her pup, is absurd. Dr. Jordan enters into detailed analysis of the estimate and finally concludes (p. 89) that there was a total of only about 2,000,000 seals of all classes in the herd of 1871–1880, instead of 4,500,000.

On page 2 his estimate of 1,059,000 seals in 1890 is stated by Dr. Jordan (idem, p. 84) to be "as bad if not worse" than his estimate of 1870. Although there are only one-fourth the number of animals stated to be present in 1890 as compared to 1872, Mr. Elliott more than doubles all the breeding areas in 1890 on St. George and also portions of the rookery space on St. Paul. As a result of this increased space occupied, Mr. Elliott concludes that the seals on St. Paul have been decreased to one-fourth and on St. George to one-half. (Jordan, idem, p. 84.)

At the time that Mr. Elliott made his estimate of 4,500,000 seals in 1872, his collaborator, Lieut. Maynard, United States Navy, estimated 6,000,000 seals present. A million or two one way or the other seemed to make no difference. (Jordan.)

The table of diminution of seal life in pages 2 and 3 of Mr. Elliott's letter is apparently a series of deductions, based partially on statements in official reports and partially on inferences of the author. By itself it lacks any value.

For example, in arriving at the number of seals present in 1898, he quotes the 1898 report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which

states that "a most apparent decrease in the number of seals frequenting the islands is shown." Mr. Elliott concludes that this loss can not be "most apparent" without being at least 12 per cent less than the figures given in 1897. His arbitrary selection of 12 per cent decrease gives a criterion of the value of the whole table. This method is repeated for the year 1901, when the term "marked falling off" is also translated to mean 12 per cent.

For the year 1902 no mention of decrease is made in the Secretary's annual report, from which Mr. Elliott concludes that the herd has decreased 12 per cent, as usual.

Mr. Elliott intimates (p. 3) that certain information contained in a letter received by the Treasury Department on September 25, 1902, that 16 Japanese vessels were engaged in pelagic sealing inside the 60-mile zone, was suppressed. A search in the files of the department shows a letter received from the Secretary of State on the date mentioned, containing a copy of a letter from the governor of Alaska. The inclosure mentions two Japanese vessels fully equipped having been boarded by the revenue cutter *Manning*, but does not mention the locality in which they were found nor that any Japanese vessels were found within the 60-mile zone. Mr. Elliott appears, therefore, to be in error in asserting that the department on that date was informed of sealing inside the zone by "16 Japanese vessels," and for some reason suppressed the information.

Mr. Elliott states further (p. 3) that in the Secretary's report for 1902 no mention is made of the statement in the special agent's report that "a careful count of harems made this year shows a falling off of 25 per cent of breeding bulls," and that the reason for this omission is that it would utterly controvert the Secretary's assertion that "the herd is in a more stable condition." It was, therefore, according to Mr. Elliott, suppressed.

From this it would appear that Mr. Elliott does not believe these two statements to be compatible, or, in other words, that a falling off in the number of bulls and an increase in the number of cows does not argue a more "stable condition of the rookeries." In this Mr. Elliott either assumes a false position for the purpose of proving his case, or shows a lack of knowledge of actual conditions of seal life as demonstrated by the opinions of scientists competent to speak with authority.

Because of the highly polygamous character of the fur seal and of the fact that the sexes are divided on the breeding rookeries in various ratios from 1 to 50 or more, it has long been decided that the presence of but a small number of bulls is necessary in proportion to the cows present. It is also true that, given a sufficiency of bulls, the more breeding females present the greater the increase of the herd, and vice versa.

If the number of breeding bulls on the islands was vastly increased, it would not result in the birth of a single pup more than is born with the same number of cows and the present ratio of bulls.

The criterion, therefore, of the rise or fall of the herd must be the increase or decrease of cows and not of bulls.

That a large surplus of breeding bulls is a detriment, rather than an advantage, is abundantly proven. Dr. Jordan states that—

> Owing to the polygamous habit of the fur seals, the greater portion of the male life born is superfluous. For the 130,000 breeding cows found on the rookeries of St. Paul and St. George Islands in the season of 1897, 4,418 bulls were adequate, or at least out of fully 10,000 adult bulls, ready and willing to serve harems, only this num-

ber were able to obtain them. Therefore only 1 bull to 30 is absolutely necessary under present conditions. That this limit could be materially lowered without positive danger to the herd is conclusively shown by, etc. (Fur Seal Inves. Com., pt. 1, p. 119.)

The removal of this surplus male life is not only possible, but is really beneficial to the herd. When the number of adult males and females was practically equal, the destruction, both among the cows and among the pups, must have been enormous. (Idem, p. 120.)

Dr. Stejneger says:

On the Pribilof Islands the undesirable abundance of superfluous males is due to the mistaken policy of limiting the number of fur seals to be taken. (Idem, pt. 4, p. 221.)

If, therefore, the number of pups born on the islands in 1902 shows no decrease in cows from the preceding year, and the number of these surplus and objectionable bulls is shown to have been decreased during the same period, it would seem proper for the Secretary of the Treasury to have reported a "more stable condition of the herd."

On page 4 Mr. Elliott's summary of seal life of all grades, from 1872 to 1903, is appended. As the figures therein have already been shown to consist mainly of mere deductions and inferences, the summary as a whole is unreliable.

On page 4 of Mr. Elliott's letter occurs a census of breeding cows made by the Fur Seal Investigation Commission and by Treasury agents. These figures, with the exception of those in 1900, quoted from the report of the Fish Commission for 1900, were the result of actual counts and are as nearly correct as possible.

To the count for 1902, however, which shows an increase of cows over that of the preceding year, Mr. Elliott attaches the following note:

This increase of some 5 per cent in cows over the figures of 1901 is a self-evident blunder, because its author in his report of 1902 says: "A careful count of harems made this year shows a falling off of 25 per cent of breeding bulls."

It is rather a blunder on the part of Mr. Elliott to assume these figures to be incorrect when he was not in possession of the evidence upon which the statistics in question are based. The census of breeding cows on the two islands in 1901 showed 90,236 present; that for 1902 showed the presence of 94,882, an increase of nearly 4 per cent. During that time the breeding bulls decreased from 3,160 to 2,381, or 24.65 per cent. This is simply a statement of the actual conditions found on the island as disclosed by a careful count. If any explanation of this condition is required, it is that the surplus male life on the rookeries had been diminished during this period by close killing, while the bulls occupied with cows had satisfactorily performed this function, and the birth rate had exceeded by this small margin the ravages of nature and pelagic sealing. Describing this condition, the agent's report for 1903 says:

We find, therefore, that during the four years from 1900 to 1903, during which close killing has been in vogue on the islands, the breeding bulls decreased 42 per cent, the bachelor herd decreased 14 per cent, and the breeding cows increased 9 per cent. It is evident from this 9 per cent increase that the closer killing of bachelors has not, to say the least, injured the herd of breeding cows.

Mr. Elliott's intimation, therefore, that an increase in the herd of cows can not exist contemporaneously with a decrease in the number of bulls on the islands, is positively disproved by the actual finding of that condition on the islands during the years mentioned.

On page 5 Mr. Elliott states that "these bulls are falling off—they are dying of old age on the rookeries, and no new blood has been permitted to reach the rookeries since 1896."

That no new blood has gone to the rookeries since 1896 is a misstatement.

The summary of the records of killings for 1897 appear on page 210 of part 1 of the report of the Fur Seal Investigation Commission. From this it will appear that the rejections from the killing grounds of young seals too large for killing purposes, but too young to serve on the rookeries, were as follows:

1897	Large rejects.	1897	Large rejects.	1897	Large rejects.	1897	Large rejects.
June 15	144	July 5	229	July 17	180	July 29	298
June 18	130	July 6	301	July 19	377	July 30	383
June 23	556	July 8	355	July 22	500	July 31	118
June 26	402	July 9	97	July 23	161	Aug. 2	350
June 30	376	July 12	140	July 24	352	Aug. 5	159
July 1	288	July 14	216	July 26	491	Aug. 7	200
July 2	107	July 16	391	July 27	221		

In the annual report of 1899 of Mr. J. M. Morton, agent in charge of the islands, are gathered the statistics of large young seals rejected from the killing grounds in 1898 and 1899, as follows:

1898	Large rejects.	1898	Large rejects.	1898	Large rejects.	1898	Large rejects.
June 1	12	June 30	199	July 15	40	July 27	502
Do	28	July 1	201	July 16	101	July 28	54
June 10	75	July 2	219	July 18	35	July 29	317
June 18	95	July 4	116	July 20	65	July 30	135
June 22	102	July 7	189	July 21	67	Aug. 1	213
June 25	221	July 8	177	July 22	151	Aug. 4	72
June 28	178	July 13	94	July 23	203	Aug. 6	120
June 29	151	July 14	66	July 25	85	Aug. 10	42

The statistics for 1899 follow:

1899	Large rejects.	1899	Large rejects.	1899	Large rejects.	1899	Large rejects.
June 15	76	July 6	90	July 17	94	July 28	25
June 22	31	July 7	34	July 19	11	July 29	147
June 29	153	July 8	31	July 20	18	July 31	121
June 30	211	July 10	48	July 21	161	Aug. 3	69
July 1	133	July 12	69	July 22	43	Aug. 5	105
Do	75	July 13	61	July 24	324	Aug. 8	113
July 3	113	July 14	96	July 27	132		

The statistics of killing for 1900 are contained in the report of Agent Judge. The number of large young seals turned away from the killing grounds for that year follows:

1900	Large rejects.	1900	Large rejects.	1900	Large rejects.	1900	Large rejects.
June 14	71	July 14	20	July 23	37	July 30	114
July 2	39	July 15	37	July 24	53	July 31	89
July 6	18	July 18	42	July 25	94	Aug. 1	66
July 9	48	July 19	53	July 27	124	Aug. 6	34
July 10	43	July 21	112	July 29	57	Aug. 10	46
July 11	10						

The statistics of killing on St. Paul for 1901 are found in the report of Agent Lembkey as follows:

1901	Dismissed, large.	1901	Dismissed, large.	1901	Dismissed, large.	1901	Dismissed, large.
June 10	25	June 26	107	July 13	148	July 25	127
June 14	117	July 2	322	July 16	69	July 26	116
June 17	93	July 3	131	Do	25	July 29	48
June 18	59	July 5	174	July 17	45	Do	35
June 19	114	July 6	60	July 18	101	July 30	128
June 20	87	July 9	46	July 19	85	July 31	141
June 21	127	Do	28	July 23	85	Aug. 5	58
June 24	397	July 10	13	Do	23	Aug. 8	15
June 25	394	July 11	84	July 24	184	Aug. 10	53

The statistics of killing for 1902 are found in the report for that year of Agent Lembkey, as follows:

1902	Large rejects.	1902	Large rejects.	1902	Large rejects.	1902	Large rejects.
June 14	37	July 3	167	July 16	53	July 28	72
June 23	99	July 5	45	July 17	45	July 29	83
June 24	162	July 7	70	July 18	38	July 31	107
June 26	204	July 9	8	July 21	125	Do	8
June 27	48	Do		July 22	108	Aug. 2	20
June 30	61	July 10	16	July 24	125	Aug. 4	32
July 2	88	July 11	41	July 26	35	Aug. 10	18
Do	51	July 15	38	Do	9		

The killing statistics for 1903, as stated by Agent Lembkey in his report, follow:

1903	Large rejects.	1903	Large rejects.	1903	Large rejects.	1903	Large rejects.
June 5	47	July 2	19	July 13	26	July 25	9
June 17	34	Do	34	July 15	13	July 27	54
June 22	62	July 3	31	July 16	7	Do	4
June 23	47	July 6	15	July 17	6	July 28	12
June 25	59	July 8	31	July 18	11	July 29	15
Do	14	Do	12	July 21	23	July 30	44
June 27	34	July 10	16	July 22	2	July 31	24
June 29	30	July 11	15	July 23	18	Aug. 4	18
July 1	74	July 13	6	July 24	6		

It is thus apparent that during the time that Mr. Elliott states that "no new blood has been permitted to reach these breeding grounds" a great number of large young seals, which have passed the size of value to the lessee, has constantly been turned away from the killing grounds to swell the ranks of breeding bulls. How many reached the breeding rookeries that did not appear on the killing grounds at all is uncertain. That there are some prime killables each year which do not reach the killing grounds is proven by these tables of rejections, which represent seals which were "prime" the year before and which, had they appeared even once on the killing ground during that period, would have been slaughtered. Their existence a year or two later proves that they passed the "prime" stage without getting into the drives.

In the face, therefore, of the statistics shown, Mr. Elliott's statement that "no new blood has been permitted to reach the breeding grounds since 1896" has no value.

On page 5 Mr. Elliott gives an "analysis of the status of male life on the rookeries or breeding grounds," which he states "clearly shows the total elimination of this life in 1907."

To obtain an idea of the value of the figures given for 1872–1874 and 1890, Dr. Jordan is quoted:

In his (Elliott's) final summary of the rookeries of the two islands (report of 1872–1874) Mr. Elliott finds a total of 3,193,420 "breeding seals and young." This includes, according to his subsequent statement, all adult breeding bulls and cows, the virgin 2-year-olds, and the pups of the year. On page 102 he tells us that 1,000,000 of these were pups, and by his calculation in the same connection of the survival of 2-year-olds we find that 225,000 of this class are included. For the million pups there must have been an equal number of breeding cows, or in all 2,225,000 cows and pups. The difference between this figure and 3,193,420, or 868,420, must have been breeding bulls. Mr. Elliott does not give an estimate of breeding bulls in connection with this report, but in 1890 he tells us that there were 90,000 breeding bulls in 1872–1874. Mr. Elliott would not himself accept what his figures necessarily show. Such a proportion of breeding bulls could not have existed on the islands. These discrepancies and others show conclusively that Mr. Elliott's figures are only guesses, multiplied by assumptions, and his inexact use of them declares that he himself attached no greater value to them at the time they were made. (Seal and Salmon Fisheries, vol. 3, pp. 697–698.)

We have here another illustration of the loose use Mr. Elliott makes of figures. He now states that the population of fur seals, "male and female," is 2,500,000 to 3,000,000. On page 108 it is between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000, which agrees with his completed census—4,700,000. In our judgment this latest estimate is very near the truth, though unintentionally so. It would, however, be of no more value than the others did it not correspond better to the known history of the herd. We cite it here simply to show the erratic way in which Mr. Elliott uses figures. (Idem, p. 699.)

Page 5. Mr. Elliott gives the number of the herd in 1890 to be "some 14,000 breeding bulls and about 420,000 cows." Of this estimate Dr. Jordan says:

Mr. Elliott gives us here in parentheses his estimate of bulls for 1890, without details as to how it was obtained. The total is 12,500. We may infer that this was an estimate, and in the frame of mind in which his investigations have been carried out, must be taken as a minimum. There are then 12,500 bulls for 400,000 cows, 1 bull to about 33 cows, or just the proportion which holds good on the rookeries to-day, when only one-half of the able-bodied adult bulls can obtain harems. It is true that Mr. Elliott charges that these bulls are impotent and worthless. The history of subsequent years shows plainly enough that this was not true. The condition of the rookeries in 1896 and 1897 shows that no dangerous proportion between males and females existed in 1890. (Idem, p. 709.)

The most important piece of work which Mr. Elliott or anyone else in studying the seals has had to do is the making of a census of the breeding herd. That his estimate of 1872–1874 is inaccurate and more than twice too great finds some excuse in the magnitude of the problem then involved. But no such excuse exists for his work of 1890. The herd had been greatly reduced, and parts of it at least were within the reach of exact enumeration. Notwithstanding, his survey and estimate of 1890 are much less satisfactory then the earlier one. (Idem, p. 714.)

Page 5. Mr. Elliott estimates the herd in 1896 to consist of "5,000 bulls and about 144,000 cows—primipares, multipares, and nubiles." The actual number of breeding cows, exclusive of yearlings and 2-year-olds, found by the commission in 1896 is stated to be 157,405, while the number of bulls having cows is stated as 4,932. (Fur Seal Inves. Com., pt. 1, p. 95.) In addition to this number of breeding bulls it is stated that there were over 5,000 active and idle bulls (idem, pt. 1, p. 119), of which latter Mr. Elliott makes no mention. Mr. Elliott's estimate of both cows and bulls is shown, therefore, to be far below the actual number.

Page 5. Mr. Elliott asserts that in 1903 the herd consisted of some 2,200 bulls and about 75,000 cows, including virgins. Our census in that year showed 97,296 breeding cows alone, exclusive of virgins; 1,979 engaged bulls and 418 idle bulls on St. Paul, and some 400 bulls of all classes on St. George, or 97,296 breeding cows and 2,897 bulls. In addition, there were perhaps some 15,000 virgin 2-year-old females and some 22,000 yearlings. Mr. Elliott's estimate of cows in 1903 is about 60,000 too low; his estimate of bulls is about 600 too low.

On page 5 Mr. Elliott states that the subjoined analysis clearly shows the total elimination of seal life in 1907. How he reaches that conclusion is absolutely inexplicable. With a herd of 97,000 breeding cows and approximately 2,380 active bulls present in 1903 it is shown that, on the estimated minimum normal ratio of 1 bull to 40 cows, not counting idle bulls, the required conditions to indefinitely perpetuate the seal herd are unmistakably demonstrated. This ratio, in the opinion of scientists, can be very greatly increased.

On page 5 Mr. Elliott asserts that "these 2,200 breeding bulls of 1903 are the survivors of those young males which were spared in 1890 and by the modus vivendi of 1891–1893." He admits in the next paragraph, however, that "in 1894 and 1895 a few hundred 4-year-olds may have escaped the club on the killing grounds and thus came in as 6-year-olds in 1896 and 1897."

This is vague. He asserts, in other words, that the bulls in 1903 are the survivors of a vast herd let go in 1890–1893, and follows the statement immediately by another that perhaps only a few hundred of those released in 1890–1893 escaped the club. This rather argues a doubt in his own mind as to the position he assumes.

The series of statements on page 6 to the effect that no young seals escaped the club to reach the rookeries as breeders is negatived by the series of tables of rejections from the killing fields already given.

His statement on page 6 that the bulls are now dying rapidly of old age is probably true of the herd at any time. It is a fact that the bulls have decreased 42 per cent since 1901. This decrease, however, affected the accumulation of surplus bulls, which was useless and injurious to the herd. There still was, in 1903, a surplus of 17 per cent of idle bulls on St. Paul.

His "prophecy" on page 7 of further reductions of bulls may easily be true, as a steady decrease has been the rule for several years, due to close killing. His statement, however, of the actual percentage of such reduction can not be proved until the proper time arrives.

The "tabulated prophecy" on page 7 is based on the incorrect postulate that no new male blood has reached the rookeries since 1900. It might, therefore, easily be considered as disposed of by the facts herein given.

The tables on pages 9 and 10 of London sales of sealskins, while compiled in a manner which leaves classifications of skins according to age dependent wholly upon the author's opinion of the matter, yet are useful in refuting certain of his statements on page 6 concerning the total annihilation on land of certain classes of young males.

He asserts, on page 6, that all the 2-year-olds in 1900 perished on the killing field. There should, therefore, be no 3-year-olds in existence in 1901. On page 10, however, we have a record of 1,826

3 and 4 year old seals having been sold in London in 1901. To have been killed in 1901 these 3-year-olds must surely have escaped the club as 2-year-olds in 1900. How many more escaped to reach the rookeries Mr. Elliott does not say, but an idea of their number may be obtained by consulting the table of large rejects in 1902.

The same may be said of his statements on page 6 regarding the years 1901 and 1902, as the sales for both of those years show the presence of 3 and 4 year old skins.

On page 10 the statement that the catches for 1900 to 1903, both inclusive, are composed in bulk of yearlings is incorrect. The majority of the skins he calls "yearlings" are 2-year-olds. The yearlings are not present on the islands in numbers until the middle of July, and the majority of those appearing then are dismissed from the drives as being too small.

On page 11 of Mr. Elliott's letter the proposition that all killing by the lessees be suspended for the seasons of 1904, 1905, and 1906, in support of which he has adduced the foregoing more or less confusing data, is reached. Before treating his proposition in detail, it is important to recall the dissenting analysis of his assertions arrived at by a critic of his premises. That there are also obvious fallacies in his conclusions, which have been shown to be based upon a distortion of facts forming a supposititious basis for them, will be made apparent also.

It may be stated with certainty that neither the recognized facts of the case nor Mr. Elliott's presentation of them justify the remedy proposed for such evils surrounding the preservation of the seal herds as may be admitted to call for a remedy.

That there has been a sad diminution of the seal herd since Mr. Elliott first viewed that magnificent mass of animal life in 1872 is only too true. That that diminution has been constant from 1880 to 1900, as marked by the lessened number of breeding cows found on the rookeries, is also true. Since 1900, however, the herd of cows on the islands not only has remained stationary, but has shown a slight increase. This fact has been proven by yearly censuses made by the most careful counts; and this increase has occurred in the very face of the close killing which Mr. Elliott asserts to be the primary cause of the decline of the herd.

In his entire argument Mr. Elliott has completely ignored the real and universally accepted cause of the depletion of seal life—the killing of mother seals in the sea by pelagic hunters. Had he ascribed the decrease to this well-known fact he would have arrived at the true solution of the problem—the stoppage of deep-sea killing. In attempting to prove, however, that faulty land killing is the cause of the decline he has had to resort to figures based on assumption, "prophecies" which have no value, and to cast aside as untrustworthy facts which prove his conclusions utterly unfounded. He has had to stigmatize the idle bulls on the islands as "somnolent" and impotent, as otherwise his theory would be proved fallacious. Had he seen in 1890, as is always to be seen, these "somnolent" and impotent bulls charging wildly over the breeding grounds and tearing cows to pieces in their efforts to steal them from more fortunate bulls he would be forced to admit that, although idle, they were neither "somnolent" nor impotent.

That Mr. Elliott is not in ignorance of the true cause of the herd's decline, and that he has given it at other times and places its true value can be easily proven. In his statement before the Ways and Means Committee on February 18, 1902, he states the decline of the herd to be due to pelagic sealing, and makes no mention of land killing except to point out the fallacy of breeding seals on land for the pelagic sealers to kill at sea. That he should claim before the committee that sea killing is the destructive agent and assert so positively before this department that land killing alone is the cause of the herd's decrease does not, to say the least, argue well for the stability of his opinions.

When Mr. Elliott inquires, therefore, in the light of his foregoing statements of fact (p. 11), whether he "is not warranted in asking you to at once suspend all killing on the islands by the lessees for the seasons of 1904, 1905, and 1906," he might well be answered in negative, as his facts adduced distinctly do not prove that land killing has been the cause of the loss of seal life. A compliance with his request, furthermore, to suspend all killing on land would be an admission on the part of the Government that it has receded from its well-known position of assuming, as it well may, that pelagic sealing is the true cause of this loss.

His further request that only a few young males be killed for natives' food by the Government agents, the skins to be marketed by the Government, would, if complied with, have no warrant in law, and would at once involve the Government in a suit for damages. The Government has neither the facility nor the authority for taking skins and selling them during the existence of the lease, and outside of the possibility of being sued would require special legislation for the matter.

Mr. Elliott's statement that "you can not divide the authority for killing on the islands in the present condition of affairs without scandal, confusion, and failure" is as incorrect as the converse is true—that the killing has been done for years by the lessee under the supervision of the Government agents without any scandal, confusion, or failure whatsoever. All regulations imposed upon the lessee by the Government have been and will be carried out to the letter without any conflict of authority.

Mr. Elliott's statement that the Secretary has power to suspend all land killing and that in that event the lessee has no recourse is a matter that can be decided only in a court of law. Indeed the circuit court of appeals for the first circuit, in the case of the United States against the North American Commercial Co., held that the company, the lessee of the sealing right, had a valid claim against the Government in 1893 (when sealing was suspended by the modus vivendi) for the value of skins which it could have taken at that time, but which it was prevented from securing by the terms of the modus.

Mr. Elliott's assertion that the lessee has no ground of complaint if you deprive it of the right to take seals, as its profits have been "enormous," is poor logic, since, no matter what its profits have been, they would not deter the company from insisting upon its privileges under its lease.

Mr. Elliott's final statement that the step he proposes the department should take—the deprivation of the lessee of its right to take seals, and the taking of the same by the Government—is provided for

by existing law, is seriously doubted. As said before, no warrant of law exists for the sale of skins by the Government at any time, surely none during the existence of a lease to a private corporation to take the same skins. The taking and selling of these skins by the Government would amount to a termination of this lease without just cause, which action assuredly can not be sanctioned by law.

It may be stated finally that the condition of the herd on the islands does not call for any such drastic treatment as Mr. Elliott prescribes. In view of the close killing of the last four years it may be well to place some restriction upon the killing of bachelors on land, such as limiting the killing to seals having skins of a certain size. This would be designed to provide against any future contingency of a lack of breeding bulls, and to forestall any future charge by the British, such as has just been made by Mr. Elliott, that too close land killing has wrought an injury to the herd. To totally suspend killing, however, is useless and uncalled for, and, besides getting the Government into numberless difficulties, would be an encouragement to the pelagic hunter for which no doubt he would be truly grateful.

MARCH 5, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: The chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, has requested me to procure for the information of his committee a statement of the manner in which the appropriation of $15,000, "to enable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to furnish food, fuel, and clothing and other necessaries of life to the native inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska," was expended during the past season and also the grounds on which Congress is requested to increase this appropriation to $19,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905.

Please prepare as promptly as possible a memorandum giving the information desired by the committee.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, March 7, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR MR. HITCHCOCK: Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, wherein I am requested to prepare a memorandum of the manner in which the natives' appropriation of $15,000 on the seal islands is expended and the grounds on which the Congress is requested to increase this appropriation to $19,500, I take pleasure in stating that the appropriation for natives' supplies is expended in the following manner:

(1) From the whole amount appropriated by Congress a sum is deducted sufficient to pay for the annual supply of coal for both islands purchased by the department for use of the natives.

(2) The remainder is apportioned between the two islands on a basis varying with the condition whether the natives' earnings from seal and fox skins on either island are greater or less than usual.

(3) The amount apportioned for either island is then added to the amount realized from natives' earnings on that island and the total sum is allotted as follows:

(*a*) An amount of, say, $1,000 is deducted for an "emergency fund," and the remainder is divided into 12 equal parts, representing months in the year, or for greater accuracy into 52 equal parts, representing weeks. This determines the amount which may be expended each week or month, as the case may be, for the whole island.

(*b*) The total number of natives to be supported by the Government is then ascertained from the census—two children being considered equal to one adult—and divided into the weekly or monthly allotment for the whole island, thus establishing a per capita allowance for the week or month.

(*c*) The number of natives in each family is then ascertained from the census, and the per capita amounts are combined to give a basis for the expenditure for each family for the week or month.

(*d*) It having been demonstrated that a large family can live more cheaply per capita than a small one, a rearrangement of amounts is made, deducting a certain sum from the large family allotments and adding it to those for the small families, and a final adjustment is reached, giving—as in the fiscal year 1903—from about $5.50 per week for a family of two to about $8.50 or $9 a week for a family of seven.

(*e*) Having thus established the amount to which each family is entitled, the issues of food and clothing are then made on Saturday of each week to the heads of families, each head being given an order for supplies on the lessee by the Government agent, which is filled at the lessee's store. This order must not exceed the family weekly allowance unless sickness or other unusual circumstance intervenes.

(*f*) In case of sickness, death, childbirth, marriage, or other unusual condition requiring an expenditure not contemplated in the regular allowance, the emergency fund is drawn upon.

(*g*) No expenditure from the appropriation has been allowed until the native head of family has expended his earnings from the taking of skins.

(*h*) Ledger accounts, both of his earnings and the expenditures from the appropriation, are kept on the islands with each head of family, which is credited with his weekly allowance and debited with the amount of his weekly order. Should the native require a suit of clothes or other necessary article representing more money than his weekly allowance, he is encouraged to save a small amount from each week's allowance until the requisite amount for the purchase of this article has been amassed.

The grounds on which Congress is requested to increase the islands' appropriation from $15,000 to $19,500 can be stated briefly as follows:

First. The certainty that the seal catch on the islands next year will be much smaller than last year, resulting in a corresponding reduction of the natives' earnings.

Second. The fact that there will be no fox skins taken next year on St. Paul, and consequently no income therefrom.

Third. The fact that the amount at present available from their earnings, as well as the appropriation, requires rigid economy to fur-

nish support for an entire year, and that a further radical reduction of this sum will result in hardship to the natives.

Fourth. That the appropriation made for these natives can not in any sense be regarded as a gratuity to them, when it is considered that through their efforts a revenue of approximately $200,000 per annum from sealskins is turned into the Treasury.

I regret that the account books containing a detailed record of these expenditures are on the islands and not available. The stubs of orders issued during the last fiscal year were transmitted to the department in due season, as were also the orders for supplies.

I shall be pleased to amplify this statement in any way should it be desired.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

MARCH 5, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: Under the contract by which the Government granted to the North American Commercial Co. the right to take seals on the Pribilof Islands the company agreed, among other things, to "provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of said islands who are unable to provide for themselves."

The regulations of the Treasury Department, as embodied in the last annual letter of instructions to the agent in charge, do not seem to fix a definite basis on which to secure the compliance of the company with the terms of the agreement, nor does it appear that any of the regulations previously issued have established such a basis. So far as I can gather from a careful reading of the regulations, the manner of enforcing this obligation on the part of the company is left entirely to the discretion of the agent. Such an arrangement is hardly businesslike. The enforcement of the contract could undoubtedly be accomplished with greater certainty if the regulations prescribed definite amounts to be contributed annually by the company for the support of the several classes of persons mentioned. The annual amount per individual that is sufficient to provide "the necessaries of life" for these classes should be determined in order to fix a proper rate of charge against the company. As the expense of providing for adults is naturally considerably greater than for infants, it would be equitable to adopt a scale of charges, the several rates to be based on the ages of persons to be provided for. If a provision of this nature is incorporated in the regulations, specifying the exact amounts to be contributed in given cases, the enforcement of the company's agreement will be a much simpler matter, as an accurate account of the "widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants," coupled with certain information as to ages, will show the exact extent of the expenditure to be required.

In determining what amounts can be properly demanded of the company under the agreement it will be necessary to compute the average annual cost of living for persons of different ages on the islands. The

available statistics regarding the earnings of and contributions to the native population other than the classes to be provided for will undoubtedly furnish sufficient data for such a computation.

I shall be obliged if you will let me have your views as to the desirability of changing the regulations so as to provide in the manner suggested for the enforcement of the company's agreement to care for "the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants."

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, March 7, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR MR. HITCHCOCK: Replying to your letter of the 5th instant, wherein you request an expression of my opinion as to the desirability of changing the regulations at present in force regarding the obligation of the North American Commercial Co., under the terms of its lease of the right to take seals on the Pribilof Islands, to provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of said islands who are unable to provide for themselves, in such manner as to fix a definite expenditure which the company shall be required to make in furnishing supplies to each individual it is obliged to support under this clause of this lease, I take pleasure in making the following statement:

In the execution of this particular provision in the lease the company has adopted a system of issues of food and clothing on the islands, regulated in accordance with the number of individuals in the families to be supported. These families are divided into large, medium, and small grades, and an issue of staple articles of food is made each week to the families on this basis.

Each family receives a weekly ration of tea, sugar, milk, butter, candles, bread, crackers, etc. A monthly issue is made of such bulkier articles as flour, lard (in 5 and 10 pound tins), coal oil, etc. A periodical issue is made of clothing, boots and shoes, household utensils, and cotton stuffs.

By a ruling of the Treasury Department made in the early part of the company's lease, and, as I understand it, on the representations of the Government agents, the company's charges were allowed to participate in the issues of coal from the natives' supply, as a means of preventing hardship to the indigents and of removing a fruitful source of bickering and strife between the company and the agents.

Owing to the peculiar social conditions existing on the islands, a small native child left an orphan is almost immediately adopted into some family, the head of which is a relation of the orphan in some degree or other. In cases of this character the natives almost without exception have declined, with some show of pride, the offer of the small amount of food necessary for the support of this child, stating that they had food enough for it in the family. In such cases and because of these peculiar circumstances the company was not

required to provide food for the orphan, but furnished it with clothing.

When the eldest son of a widow whose family has remained intact becomes of the proper age to be placed upon the sealing gang and to participate in the division of the natives' earnings, it has been the practice to take the entire family from the list of company charges and give it the status of a self-supporting family, the son becoming the head of the family. This practice is based upon a construction of the clause in the lease which requires the company to furnish the necessaries of life to the persons named "who are unable to provide for themselves," and the family having an able-bodied workman in it is not considered as coming within this class.

In the absence of any regulation on the subject the whole matter of the support of indigents by the company has been left to discretion. While the company has almost invariably dealt fairly with the natives whom it is called upon to support, this element of discretion is and always has been objectionable, and one which under different circumstances might result in hardship and abuse. The company's employees, in certain instances, have shown a tendency to resent interference on the part of the Government agent with their methods of feeding and clothing the widows and orphans, and I have felt sometimes that they might make a native suffer for any complaint against them made to the Government agent. I can positively state that I will welcome any regulation which will leave as little as possible to the discretion either of the Government agents or the company's employees, and which will reduce the feeding and clothing of this class of the population of the islands to a fixed basis. I believe that the plan suggested of agreeing upon a definite rate of expenditure per capita to be required of the company in the discharge of its obligation to support the several classes of persons mentioned in the contract would be a great improvement upon the loose method now practiced.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

MARCH 5, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: After a careful study of the fur-seal problem as it now presents itself to the department I am inclined to the opinion that measures of a somewhat radical nature should be adopted to allay the apprehension that apparently exists in certain quarters as regards the condition of the seal herd. As you are doubtless aware resolutions have been introduced in the Senate and in the House of Representatives calling upon the department to suspend altogether the killing on the islands. During the consideration of these resolutions in committee it is not improbable that the department will be called upon to express an opinion as to the necessity of the measure suggested. It therefore seems desirable to reach a decision regarding the measures the department should recommend in substitution for the proposed cessation of killing. It has occurred to me to suggest the adoption of the following regulations as regards the taking of seals during the

coming season, and I shall be pleased to have an expression of your judgment as to the desirability of these regulations and their probable effectiveness:

(1) Prohibit the taking of 4-year-old seals.

(2) Cull out from the drives a given number of 3-year-old seals, say, 1,000 in all, marking them in such a manner as to prevent recounting.

(3) Prohibit the taking of yearlings—that is to say, seals under the age of 2 years.

As regards the marking of the seals, I have written you another letter of even date making a suggestion, regarding which I desire your opinion.

I shall be obliged if you will let me have your responses to both letters as promptly as possible, for it is probable that the department will be called upon in the near future for a statement of its views regarding the proposed seal legislation now pending in Congress.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MARCH 5, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: After a careful study of the statistics presented in your last annual report, compared with the records for previous years, I am of the opinion that positive measures should be taken during the coming season to see that bachelor seals are reserved from the killing in such numbers as will remove all possible danger of the ultimate depletion of the herd from an insufficiency of male life.

It seems to me that the most feasible method of accomplishing the desired result is to cull out from the first drives of the season a given number of males and allow them to escape, but in order to be certain that the full number decided upon has been released it is obvious that some means of identifying such of these seals as reappear in subsequent drives must be devised, for otherwise they would be counted more than once.

While endeavoring to hit upon a plan by which seals once counted can be so marked as to make them readily distinguishable it has occurred to me that possibly the purpose can be obtained by shearing off a strip or patch of fur on the upper portion of the back, where the mark left will be most conspicuous.

It would seem that this plan of marking could be carried out quite readily, without any injury to the seal, by employing a pair of modern clipping shears, such as are used for shearing sheep and for clipping dogs, or possibly with shears made upon the same principle, but with longer handles. The removing of a patch of fur with such shears would leave a mark that could be easily discerned throughout the season, thus making it possible to identify the seals that reappeared in later drives after having been once counted and allowed to escape.

The general opinion now seems to be that it is impracticable to employ branding as a method of marking seals, particularly when they have attained any considerable size, but the objections that

hold in the case of branding do not seem to apply to the proposed plan of shearing out a mark in the fur.

I shall be glad to have your judgment as to the feasibility of marking the seals after the manner suggested.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, March 8, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR MR. HITCHCOCK: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, wherein you outline certain regulations governing the taking of seals on the Pribilof Islands, which, you suggest, may be dictated by present conditions, and request an expression of my opinion as to the desirability of these regulations and their probable effectiveness.

In reply, I beg to say that the regulations as proposed by you are all designed to insure the immunity from slaughter on land of such number of young male seals as will be adequate to maintain the requisite supply of breeding bulls, and are as follows:

(1) Prohibit the taking of 4-year-old seals.

(2) Cull out from the drives a given number of 3-year-old seals, say, 1,000 in all, marking them in such a manner as to prevent recounting.

(3) Prohibit the taking of yearlings—that is to say, seals under the age of 2 years.

As to the desirability of such regulations, I will state that the closer killing on the islands of the last few years and the reduction of 42 per cent in the number of breeding bulls on St. Paul Island within the last three years, renders imperative the adoption of some regulation which will insure beyond conjecture against the further depletion of this necessary element on the breeding rookeries. The measures proposed by you, in my judgment, are amply sufficient to accomplish this end.

Treating them in detail, the regulations suggested in your letter will have the following effect:

(1) The prohibition of the killing of 4-year-olds will result in the immunity from land slaughter of all seals which have passed the 3-year-old stage, allowing them to grow up as breeders without further molestation on land.

(2) The culling out from the drives of a certain number of 3-year-olds and marking them so as to prevent recounting will insure the certainty that there are at least that number of 3-year-olds in existence at the close of the killing season, and thereafter immune from land killing.

(3) The prohibition of the killing of yearlings, while good policy, will have no effect upon the present practice on the islands. No yearlings are killed on land on either island. In view, however, of the positive statements by certain persons that such practice exists, a formal prohibition thereof by the department will be the best method of negativing these criticisms. The killing of yearlings, in my judg-

ment, would be an economic waste, and were it a fact should be prohibited if for no other reason.

The general effect of these regulations, if promulgated, will be to limit the killing on land entirely to 2 and 3 year olds, and will leave a sufficient number of the latter class to escape to guard against any undue reduction of the supply of breeding bulls. The number of 3-year-olds to be marked for escape, suggested in your letter as 1,000, is, in my opinion, ample. Beyond the actual provision of enough males to serve as breeders it would be unwise to go, in my opinion, in view of the activity in the vicinity of the islands of both the Canadian and Japanese sealing fleets.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, March 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I have to report that the following amount of coal will be required on the seal islands of Alaska during the coming year:

	Tons.
For Government houses	20
For natives' use	155
For natives' use, furnished free under lease	80
Total	255

This should be divided between the two islands as follows:

For St. Paul:	
For Government house	10
For natives' use	80
For lease coal, free	50
Total	140
For St. George:	
For Government house	10
For natives' use	75
For natives' use, free	30
Total	115

This should be paid for from the following appropriations: Twenty tons for Government houses, appropriation "Fuel, light, and water, 1904"; 155 tons from appropriation for "Food, fuel, and clothing for native inhabitants, 1904"; 80 tons, free, to be furnished by lessee.

The coal for which payment is to be made by the Government has heretofore been furnished by the company at the rate of $20 a ton, to include delivery on the beach at the respective islands. As it usually has been taken by the company on the first trip of its steamer sailing from San Francisco, about May 15, it is suggested that the lessee be requested as soon as practicable to submit bids for the delivery of the coal in question.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

MARCH 28, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 28th instant, relative to the amount of coal that will be required during the coming year on the seal islands of Alaska.

In accordance with your suggestion, the North American Commercial Co. will be requested to submit bids for the delivery of that portion of the coal to be purchased by the Government at the earliest practicable date.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

APRIL 1, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: In a letter dated March 23, 1904, the chief clerk of the Treasury Department transmits an invoice of ordnance and ordnance stores issued to you by that department and requests to be furnished with a receipt for the articles enumerated thereon, as follows: Eighteen magazine rifles, caliber .30; 18 cartridge belts, infantry, caliber .30; 18 gun slings; 18 small-arm oilers; 4 screw drivers; 1 arm chest; 1,500 rifle ball cartridges, caliber .30.

I shall be obliged if you will inform me if these stores were received by you.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, April 4, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, in which you request information whether certain arms and ammunition, mentioned in a letter dated March 23 last, from the chief clerk of the Treasury Department, were received by me, I will state that the articles enumerated were all received on the islands in June, 1902, and distributed as follows:

St. Paul Island: Twelve magazine rifles, caliber .30; 18 cartridge belts, infantry, caliber .30; 18 gun slings; 12 small-arm oilers; 3 screw drivers; 1 arm chest; 1,000 rifle ball cartridges, caliber .30.

St. George Island: Six magazine rifles, caliber .30; 6 small-arm oilers; 1 screw driver; 500 rifle ball cartridges, caliber .30.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaska Seal Fisheries.

APRIL 12, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of the Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: In compliance with an application received from the North American Commercial Co. in a letter dated the 4th ultimo, the Treasury Department has been this day requested to instruct the collector of customs at San Francisco to permit the company named to ship from said port to the Pribilof Islands during the current fiscal year liquors, for medicinal purposes only, and ammunition, in the following quantities:

St. Paul Island (population—native 160, white 10; total 170): Four barrels beer; 2 cases whisky; 6 kegs whisky (30 gallons); 1 keg brandy (5 gallons); 1 keg rum (5 gallons); 1 case gin; 4 cases still wine; 2 kegs port wine (5 gallons each); 2 kegs sherry (5 gallons each); 15 gallons alcohol; 1 case champagne; 1,000 cartridges, .22 short; 1,000 cartridges, .22 long; 500 cartridges, .38 caliber; 250 cartridges, .30 caliber; 250 cartridges, .44 caliber.

St. George Island (population—native 92, white 8; total 100): Three barrels beer (pints); 2 kegs whisky (5 gallons each); 1 case whisky; 2 kegs brandy (5 gallons each); 3 cases still wine; 1 keg port wine (5 gallons); 1 keg sherry (5 gallons); 1,000 cartridges, .22 long; 1,000 cartridges, .44 caliber; 150 pounds powder.

It appears from the records of the fur-seal service, transferred to this department, that the quantities of spirituous liquors and ammunition above specified are the same as those covered by permits granted annually for a number of years past by the Treasury Department in response to similar applications received from the company.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

APRIL 13, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Seal Fisheries,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 4th instant, stating in reply to my inquiry that certain arms and ammunition, mentioned in a letter from the chief clerk of the Treasury Department under date of the 23d ultimo, were all received by you on the Pribilof Islands in June, 1902, came duly to hand.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, April 25, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have a letter from the president of the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, stating that the company's

steamer is expected to sail for the Pribilof Islands from the last-named port on May 21, proximo. In view of this information, it will not be necessary for me to leave Washington before May 12.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Islands.

APRIL 25, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent for the Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 25th instant, stating that in view of the fact that the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer is not expected to sail from San Francisco for the Pribilof Islands until May 21 it will not be necessary for you to leave Washington before May 12.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

APRIL 27, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent for the Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith a copy of a letter that was addressed to the North American Commercial Co., Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal., under date of the 26th instant, relative to the coal supply for the seal islands during the coming season.

You will please note the conditions under which this coal is to be delivered and will take such steps as are necessary to have them enforced.

In view of the impracticability of weighing the coal at the time of delivery or for some time thereafter, you are authorized to give the company's agent receipts, subject to weighing, for the full quantity of coal as soon as the last load thereof is landed, the company agreeing to make good from its own supply any deficiency in weight that may be disclosed when the coal is finally weighed. The receipts given should state specifically that they are "subject to weighing." The assistant agent in charge on St. George Island should be instructed accordingly.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, April 26, 1904.

NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of the 16th instant, stating that you "agree to deliver during the season of 1904, on the beach at St. Paul Island, 90 tons of coal, and at St. George Island 85 tons of coal, at the rate of $20 per ton; provided: (1) That per-

mission be granted to land a sufficient number of extra laborers and that none of the conditions under which this company has heretofore handled coal upon the islands be altered; also (2) that the Government agent in charge at each island shall give our agent proper receipts and warrants for the full quantity of coal, as above specified, as soon as the last load thereof is landed and before the coal has been weighed, it being agreed between our agents and your agents that this company will make good from its own supply any deficiency in weight, should any there be, when the coal is finally weighed."

As regards the landing of extra laborers to assist in handling the coal, you are advised that the department will grant the desired permission under similar conditions to those imposed by the Treasury Department last season, but it is suggested that a formal application for the permit be made, stating the maximum number of persons the company wishes to land.

In accordance with the practice established by the Treasury Department two seasons ago and continued last season, the Government agent in charge at each island will be instructed to give your agent proper receipts, subject to weighing, for the full quantity of coal, as above specified, as soon as the last load thereof is landed and before the coal has been weighed, with the understanding, however, that if any deficiency in weight is disclosed when the coal is finally weighed, your company will make good from its own supply any such deficiency. As stipulated in the department's letter of April 2, the coal to be delivered must be first quality.

With reference to the coal delivered by your company under its contract last season, for which you say no payment has been made, I find upon inquiry at our disbursing office that no bill appears to have been received at this department for such coal. It is possible that the bill went to the Treasury Department and was not forwarded to the Department of Commerce and Labor. If you will be good enough to submit to this department a duplicate bill, steps will be taken to have payment made as promptly as possible.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, April 29, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, wherein I am informed of the action taken in contracting for the supply of coal to be used on the Pribilof Islands during the coming year, and the conditions under which receipts for such coal are to be given.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent for the Seal Islands.

MAY 1, 1904.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent for Seal Islands,
Columbus, Ohio.

SIR: You are directed to proceed from your home in Columbus, Ohio, to San Francisco, Cal., where you will report in person, on the 20th instant, to Mr. W. I. Lembkey, agent in charge of the seal islands, in order that you may sail with him on the steamer of the North American Commercial Co. which is to leave San Francisco on or about May 21 for the seal islands, Alaska.

Respectfully,

GEO. B. CORTELYOU,
Secretary.

MAY 10, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: I forward herewith department letter of the 17th instant, which has just been received at my office, prepared to transmit to you the 10 Government requests for transportation you desire for use in traveling on official business during the present season.

I understand that the requests in question, Nos. 1596–1605, have been already delivered to you.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE OF
ALASKA SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of your letter of the 10th of May last, inclosing department letter of the 17th instant, transmitting requests for transportation Nos. 1596–1605 for use of myself and the assistant agents on the seal islands.

As inferred in your letter, the requests were delivered to me in person under emergency at the department, and a portion of them have already been used in the transportation of myself and the assistant agents in traveling to and returning from the islands.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

OCTOBER 20, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The letter you addressed to Mr. Hitchcock, under date of the 28th of July last, stating that transportation requests Nos. 1596–1605, for the use of yourself and the assistant agents on the seal islands, were delivered to you in person under emergency at the department, has been received at this office.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 12, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith department letter of May 1, 1904, embodying your instructions for the coming season as agent in charge of the seal islands.

Three copies of the letter of instructions are also inclosed, one of which you will please deliver to each of the assistant agents at the islands.

By to-day's mail I shall forward a copy of the letter of instructions to the North American Commercial Co., Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 1, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: You are directed to proceed as soon an practicable to the seal islands, Alaska, and resume charge of the interests of the Government thereon. Assistant Agent James Judge, who is now at his home in Columbus, Ohio, will be instructed to accompany you, and both of you should take passage to the islands on the steamer of the North American Commercial Co. leaving San Francisco on or about the 21st instant.

You will make such assignment of the assistant agents during the coming sealing season as in your opinion will subserve the best interests of the service and the welfare of the native inhabitants, notifying the department of your action in this regard.

At the close of the sealing season Assistant Agents Ezra W. Clark and H. D. Chichester are to return to their respective homes unless in your opinion the exigencies of the service require either or both of them to remain on the islands during the coming winter, in which event you will instruct them accordingly.

Inclosed herewith are copies of the contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co., and it will be your duty and that of your assistants to see that its provisions are enforced

and that the rights of the Government and those of the lessees are duly protected.

Should a difference of opinion arise at any time between yourself and the representatives of the company in respect to a matter of administration on the islands, your decision must govern; but in all such cases you should request the superintendent of the company to furnish a written statement of his views on the question involved, and this statement should be transmitted to the department, with an expression of your own views, at the earliest practicable moment.

QUOTA.

If the condition of the herd will permit, the lessees may be allowed to take during the season of 1904 as many as 13,000 male seals of the proper age on the island of St. Paul, and as many as 2,000 on the island of St. George, but not more than the number specified in either case. The numbers to which the quotas of the two islands are thus limited shall be inclusive of any skins accepted by the company from food drives made prior to the present sealing season. (No seals shall be taken that are over 4 years of age, nor shall any seals be taken that are under 2 years of age.)

In order to remove all doubt as to the reservation of a sufficient number of male seals for the perpetuation of the herd, you are instructed to release from among the best seals appearing in the first drives of the season not less than 1,000 3-year-old males and not less than 1,000 2-year-old males. Of the 3-year-olds and 2-year-olds to be reserved, 800 of each shall be released on the island of St. Paul and 200 of each on the island of St. George. The seals thus released are to be marked in such a manner as will make them readily recognizable throughout the season, and under no circumstances are they to be taken by the lessees.

KILLING SEASON.

The killing season should begin as soon after the 1st of June as the rookeries are in condition for driving. Seals shall not be killed by the lessees later than July 31. No seals whatever shall be taken during the stagey season. The killing of pups for food for the natives or for any other purpose is not to be permitted.

SEALS FOR FOOD.

The number of seals to be killed by the natives for food during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1904, shall not exceed 1,700 on the island of St. Paul and 300 on the island of St. George, and no seals shall be taken for this purpose that are over 4 years of age or under 2 years of age, nor any of the 3-year-olds or 2-year-olds reserved during the lessees' killing season under the instructions given above.

DRIVING.

The representatives of the company on the islands should be required to give notice on the day preceding that on which they desire to make a drive of the seals, stating the name of the rookery selected,

such notice to be subject to your approval. A representative of the Government should be present on the killing grounds in each instance to superintend the killing. If at any time the methods employed in driving or killing appear in your judgment to be faulty or detrimental to the seal herd, you should see that such methods are immediately corrected, indicating to the representatives of the company what changes are to be made.

KILLING GROUNDS.

As heretofore, you should establish on each of the islands killing grounds that can be reached by the shortest possible drive, provided, however, that such killing grounds must be at places sufficiently distant from the rookeries to prevent annoyance from the decaying carcasses.

ACCEPTANCE OF SKINS.

In an opinion dated March 8, 1902, it was held by the Solicitor of the Treasury that the lessees have no right to reject any of the skins taken from the seals they have selected for killing. You will therefore see that all such skins, regardless of condition, are accepted.

COUNTING SKINS.

All the sealskins should be carefully counted in the salt houses in the presence of the department agent and of the representative of the company, and a receipt in duplicate in the following form should be prepared and signed by said agent and by the representative of the company:

ST. ——— ISLAND,
——— ——, *190—*.

We certify that there have been placed in the salt house in our presence ——— sealskins.

———— ————,
Agent United States Department of Commerce and Labor.

———— ————,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

The original of the above receipt should be retained by the department agent and the duplicate given to the representative of the North American Commercial Co.

At the close of the season, when the sealskins are again counted and shipped on board the company's steamer, the usual annual receipts should be signed by the captain of the steamer and the representative of the department.

TRADING IN SKINS.

The North American Commercial Co. has the exclusive privilege under the contracts of taking sealskins and fox skins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and you should see that no other company or person is allowed to trade with the natives for such skins.

MEASURES TO PREVENT SHIPMENT OF SKINS BY NATIVES.

To avoid the possibility of sealskins or fox skins being surreptitiously shipped from the islands, you are directed to continue the practice of examining all goods to be shipped by the natives, including baggage and personal effects, and where barrels, casks, boxes, or other receptacles are used they should be closed under your supervision, after an examination of their contents, before being placed in the warehouse. No person shall be admitted to the space reserved for such merchandise in the warehouse without your consent. Any skins found concealed in packages to be shipped by the natives should be seized and held subject to instructions from the department

CENSUS OF SEAL HERD.

You are expected to make a thorough examination into the condition of the seal herd during the coming season and to make a careful count of the number of breeding seals, male and female, on the islands, and also a computation as accurate as possible of the number of seals not breeding, including idle bulls, half bulls, bachelors, and virgin females. A careful enumeration should also be made of the pups found dead at the close of the season, and such information as can be had regarding the causes of death reported.

SEALSKINS TO BE WEIGHED.

You are instructed to have the skins of the seals taken by the lessees during the coming season carefully weighed and to keep a record of the weights for the information of the department. You should also weigh the skins of seals that are killed to supply food for the natives and record the weights. The natives may be required to assist as far as practicable in the work of weighing.

TAKING OF FOXES TO BE RESTRICTED.

Proper restrictions should be placed upon the taking of foxes during the coming season. You are directed to see that the number killed is not in excess of the yearly increase in these animals. If there seems to be danger of extermination on either of the islands, all killing on that island should be stopped.

KILLING OF SEA LIONS TO BE LIMITED.

The preservation of the sea-lion rookeries on the islands is highly important. The killing of these animals should be limited to such number as is absolutely necessary in providing for the construction of "bidaras," or skin boats. Sea-lion pups should not be killed for any purpose.

CARE OF THE NATIVES.

The care and welfare of the natives should receive your close attention, and you are directed to see that the lessees perform all of the obligations of their contract toward such natives. You should ascertain the prices charged at the company's stores, compare them

with the prices at San Francisco, and report any instances where the natives are compelled to pay unfair prices. You should also inspect the articles supplied as to quality and quantity, and if they are in any manner deficient you should report the fact to the department.

COMPENSATION TO NATIVES FOR TAKING SEALSKINS.

The compensation to be paid by the company for killing, salting, curing, bundling, and loading the sealskins on the company's steamer will be 50 cents for each skin. The money thus earned is to constitute a community fund for distribution among the natives according to their respective classes. At the close of the sealing season, after a conference with the native chiefs, you will make such division of the fund among the natives, according to their classification, as is deemed fair and just and submit a report of such division, showing the amount apportioned to each native participating in the fund, which report should be accompanied by an indorsement from the native chiefs and the company's agent certifying that such funds have been credited to such natives on the books of the company.

RETURNS TO NATIVES UNDER FOX CONTRACTS.

Under the contract executed between the Secretary of the Treasury and the North American Commercial Co. on May 2, 1900, the company named was granted the right to propagate the fur-bearing animal known as the blue fox on the islands of St. Paul and St. George for a term of five years, the company to pay $5 for every blue fox skin and $1 for every white fox skin obtained, these payments to be entered as a credit on the books of the company in favor of the natives and to be available for their support on orders drawn in their favor by the Government agent.

The amounts accruing to the natives under this contract are to be added to and form a part of the community fund and are in the same manner to be credited to the natives on the books of the company.

PAYMENT OF NATIVES' EARNINGS.

The amounts that are earned from the company by the natives for labor other than sealing and foxing are to be paid to them in cash, and you will instruct the representatives of the company accordingly. The funds earned in sealing and foxing, however, are to be disbursed upon order, as heretofore.

The payment to the natives of money from the appropriation for their maintenance, upon the orders of the Government agent, is strictly prohibited.

Articles that do not properly come within the term "necessaries" should not be exposed for sale in the company's stores, nor sold to the natives for the money they earn by labor.

SUPPORT OF NATIVES.

Congress has appropriated the sum of $19,500 "to enable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to furnish food, fuel, and clothing to the native inhabitants on the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, Alaska," during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, and the greatest

care and economy should be exercised in the expenditure of this appropriation. Articles of strict necessity only should be issued. No expensive dress goods, boots or other articles are to be provided. The natives should be restricted to one pair of dress shoes each year, and the women to one good dress. Ginghams, calicoes, muslins, and similar inexpensive dress goods may be issued in reasonable quantities.

The supply of fuel for the use of the natives is paid for from this appropriation, and the cost of such fuel should not be overlooked in determining how much of the appropriation is available for other purposes.

In the distribution of the supplies no distinction is to be made between persons without means and those having small savings from previous years, but the earnings for the current year should be expended for necessaries, other than food, fuel, and clothing, before any allowance is granted from the appropriation.

You will continue the plan adopted under previous instructions of issuing orders upon the company for such supplies as are required by the native inhabitants after they have expended their current yearly earnings. At the end of the season, as heretofore, you will submit to the department the stubs of the orders given, for use in verifying the accounts of the company.

COAL SUPPLY.

In a letter to the department dated April 16, 1904, the North American Commercial Co. has agreed to furnish during the coming season 175 tons of coal for use on the islands at $20 per ton, including delivery on the beach, 90 tons to be delivered on St. Paul Island and 85 tons on St. George Island. This coal, with the 80 tons additional the company is required to furnish under the terms of its contract, will make available for all purposes a supply of 255 tons, and in its distribution the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George are to be included.

Of the 175 tons purchased from the company, you may make the following distribution:

	Tons.
St. Paul Island:	
For the Government house	10
For the use of the natives	80
St. George Island:	
For the Government house	10
For the use of the natives	75
Total	175

Of the 80 tons furnished by the company without charge under its contract, 50 tons may be distributed to the natives of St. Paul and 30 tons to the natives of St. George.

DWELLINGS FOR NATIVES.

The agreement of the company in its contract to furnish the native inhabitants of the islands a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings and to keep such dwellings in proper repair should be strictly enforced. You are instructed to obtain from the representatives of the company, as soon after the close of the current fiscal year as practicable a statement of the amount expended during the year in carrying out this requirement of the contract.

SCHOOLS FOR THE NATIVES.

You will require the schools for the native children to be maintained from September 1 to May 1, and to be opened five days in each week, the school hours to be from 9 o'clock a. m. to 3 o'clock p. m., with 1 hour recess at noon and 15 minutes recess in the forenoon.

It will be your duty to see that the teachers appointed by the company are competent to teach the English language and that they faithfully perform this duty. None but the English language shall be taught in the schools.

If the parents of the children on the islands desire to send them to the Jessie Lee School at Unalaska the department has no objection, provided no expenditure of public money is involved in their transportation to Unalaska or their maintenance and schooling while there. This course will also be permitted under the same conditions in the case of orphan children for whom provision is now made by the company under its contract.

The amount expended by the company during the fiscal year for the maintenance of schools in accordance with the requirements of its contract should be ascertained and reported to the department.

HOUSE OF WORSHIP AND MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

You will also ascertain the company's expenditures during the year in maintaining a suitable house for religious worship and in providing competent physicians and necessary medicines and medical supplies.

WIDOWS, ORPHANS, AGED, AND INFIRM.

The company is required by its contract to provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands who are unable to provide for themselves, and you will see that this obligation is fully discharged. As soon as practicable after the close of the current fiscal year you will procure from the representatives of the company a statement showing the number of such inhabitants provided for during the year, and also the amount expended in making such provision.

Widows and orphans having small sums of money to their credit should not be compelled to spend them and become wholly dependent before they are allowed to draw supplies under this provision in the company's contract. Such sums, as well as similar accounts held by other natives, may be drawn upon from time to time, however, with the consent and under the direction of the Government agent, for such reasonable articles as will contribute to the comfort of the persons supplying the funds.

NATIVES TO RENDER SERVICE.

In consideration of the support gratuitously afforded the natives by the Government, you are directed to utilize their services, when not required by the company, in repairing roads, guarding the rookeries, and performing such other duties as seem desirable. This instruction is not to be regarded, however, as relieving the company from its obligation to employ the natives, at a fair and just compensation, for all such work as they are fitted to perform.

ELECTION OF NATIVE CHIEFS.

No interference should be permitted in the selection of their chiefs by the native inhabitants of the islands. If it should transpire, however, that persons manifestly unsuitable for the position are chosen, it will be your duty to interpose in the interest of good government and require the selection of proper persons, but such action should be taken only in extreme cases.

SALE OF INTOXICANTS PROHIBITED.

The company agrees in its contract that it will not permit any of its agents to keep, sell, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors or opium on either of the islands or the waters adjacent thereto to any of the native inhabitants, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as a medicine. This obligation is to be rigidly enforced.

MANUFACTURE OF INTOXICANTS PROHIBITED.

The brewing or distilling of intoxicating beverages on the islands is prohibited. In the enforcement of this provision you are authorized to discontinue the sale from the company's stores of sugar or of other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants to any person who violates this order or who is found to be intoxicated. Should intoxication become so general among the people as to interfere with good government and jeopardize the peace, you are authorized to discontinue altogether the sale of sugar and of other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants for such length of time as may appear wise.

REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.

Should natives or other persons become so unruly or immoral in conduct as to endanger the peace and good government of the people they should be removed from the islands, and the Revenue-Cutter Service will be instructed to render such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose.

LANDING ON THE ISLANDS RESTRICTED.

No persons other than Government officers, representatives and employees of the North American Commercial Co., and duly accredited representatives of the Russian Church shall be allowed to land on the islands except by written authority from the department. The permission granted representatives of the Russian Church to visit the islands may be suspended, however, where its exercise is attempted by an improper person. Visitors to the islands should not be permitted to inspect the rookeries except under your supervision.

INFORMATION REGARDING AFFAIRS ON THE ISLANDS.

No information regarding the seals or as to any other matter pertaining to the seal islands is to be given out by you or by any of the assistant agents. All applications for such information should be referred to the department.

CONCLUSION.

Should questions arise involving matters not covered by these instructions it will be your duty to report the facts to the department, and to await instructions, except in cases requiring immediate decision, when you will take such action as sound judgment directs.

A copy of these instructions should be furnished by you to each of the assistant agents on the seal islands for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

GEO. B. CORTELYOU,
Secretary.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL,
May 12, 1904.

DEAR MR. HITCHCOCK: It has just occurred to me that if that large camera be sent to the islands it will be necessary to have sent with it some plates of suitable size.

Hastily,

W. I. LEMBKEY.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
May 12, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: Dr. Alfred G. Mayer, curator in chief of the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Brooklyn, N. Y., has applied to the department, on behalf of his museum, for the privilege of securing for scientific purposes six skins of fur seals meeting death through accident during the coming season on the Pribilof Islands. The specimens desired are as follows: One old bull, one immature bull, two cows, two pups.

If the specimens can be furnished without interfering in any manner with the duties of the agents or the rights of the lessees, you are authorized to reserve for the museum the skins specified, provided they are obtainable from seals that have met death through accident or from natural causes. The museum will be informed, however, that any services performed by the natives in preparing specimens are to be properly remunerated, and that it will also be expected to defray the expenses of transportation from the islands.

In the museum's application it was requested that Mr. Arthur M. Aten, who has been commissioned by the institution to collect birds and mammals in Alaska during the coming summer, be permitted to obtain the sealskins mentioned above, but this would necessitate the granting to Mr. Aten of a permit to visit the islands, which the department does not think advisable.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 12, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: Please send me word before sailing as to whether or not the four weighing instruments that were sent from here by registered mail on the 11th instant reached San Francisco in time to be taken with you to the seal islands.

Also please let me know if you received the various photographic supplies that were forwarded to San Francisco this morning by registered mail.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 12, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: With reference to the provision in your instructions prohibiting the lessees from killing any seals during the coming season that are under 2 years of age, you are directed in the enforcement of this requirement to fix upon $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds as a minimum limit of weight for the skins to be taken.

It will be your duty to see that every possible precaution is exercised to prevent the killing of seals that yield skins under the weight mentioned.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 14, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent for the Seal Islands,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: The desirability of having the rookeries photographed this summer at the height of the season has been brought to your attention and you are requested to accomplish what you can in this direction; provided, however, that the work of taking the photographs shall not be allowed to interfere with more imperative duties.

In addition to the camera and outfit, with which you were provided before your departure for San Francisco, there will be furnished in time for use at the height of the season a large "Carlton" camera ($6\frac{1}{2}$ by $8\frac{1}{2}$) with the necessary equipment. Arrangements will be made to forward this latter camera by one of the revenue cutters.

It is possible that the plan of having topographic photographs made of the rookeries during the summer by employees of the Coast and Geodetic Survey can be carried out, in which event it will not be necessary for you to devote much time to photographic work.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 14, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent for the Seal Islands,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: Pending the arrival on the islands of the clipping apparatus that is to be provided for experiment in marking the 2-year-old and 3-year-old seals to be reserved from the killing, it is expected that you will employ the method agreed upon of singeing out a spot in the fur on the top of the seal's head with the branding irons. In marking the fur by this method care should be taken not to burn into the skin of the animal.

Upon the receipt of the clipping apparatus you will please give it a sufficient test to determine its practicability, and if it proves to be successful it should be substituted for the branding irons.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, May 14, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent for the Seal Fisheries,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: I desire to remind you of the wish of the department to have a record kept for the coming season of the number of sealskins taken on the islands, as distinct from the number of skins shipped. You may please have separate records made for each island of the number of skins taken from seals killed by the lessees during the season, and also of the skins taken from seals killed in food drives.

The importance of securing fuller statistics regarding the seals on the island of St. George has been already impressed upon you. The assistant agents on that island should be required to exert every possible effort during the coming season to make their counts of seals as accurate and complete as the conditions will permit. The number of idle bulls on the island should be counted, as well as the bulls having harems, and as accurate returns as possible should be made as to the number of breeding cows, and also as to the number of immature seals, including half-bulls, bachelors, and virgin cows.

For the proper enforcement of the regulation prohibiting the killing of seals during the coming season that are under 2 years of age, it is desirable that the work of weighing skins called for by your instructions be done with great thoroughness and care, one of the objects of such weighing being to see that no skins are taken that weigh less than 5½ pounds, which is the minimum limit to be fixed upon in the enforcement of the regulation. Your assistants on St. George should be advised as to the importance of this work and directed to comply strictly with the instructions. You will please see that at least two of the six

weighing instruments with which you have been provided are placed in the hands of your assistants on St. George.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 14, 1904.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent for Seal Islands,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 12th instant, inclosing stub of transportation request No. 1596, Columbus, Ohio, to San Francisco, C., C., C. & St. L. Railway, dated May 9, 1904, has been received.

You inadvertently neglected to fill in the amount.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 14, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent for Seal Islands,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: I have received your note of the 12th instant, written at the Columbian University Hospital, this city, in which you suggest the necessity of procuring plates for the large camera that has been obtained from the Coast and Geodetic Survey for use on the seal islands this summer.

Care will be taken to have a supply of plates, as well as other necessary equipment, forwarded with the camera.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

MAY 14, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent for Seal Islands,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 12th instant, inclosing stubs of transportation requests Nos. 1597, railway fare, Philadelphia to San Francisco, and 1598, Pullman fare, Philadelphia to Chicago, has been received.

Note is made of your statement that the Pennsylvania Railroad, over which line you travel, charged you $80.25, against your protest, for a ticket from Philadelphia to San Francisco, whereas last fall you paid $77.50 for a ticket from San Francisco to Philadelphia, which latter fare you consider the proper one.

The disbursing office will be instructed to look into the matter and ascertain if the charge of $80.25 was excessive.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

SAN FRANCISCO, *May 20, 1904.*

DEAR MR. HITCHCOCK: I have received three letters dated the 12th instant and five letters dated the 14th instant, all in relation to the island business. While I have not the opportunity to acknowledge them in detail, I beg to say that their contents have been thoroughly digested and proper action will be taken toward their enforcement.

I received on the 17th instant five registered packages containing the photographic supplies purchased before my departure. The scales arrived to-day and their arrival removed a potent cause of anxiety lest they be delayed until after my sailing.

Upon receipt I communicated the contents of your letter of the 12th instant, fixing a minimum weight on skins, to Mr. Taylor, whereupon he entered an immediate and vigorous protest. When I pointed out that my instructions were not discretionary, he stated that he would at once protest to the department. He requested that I inform him by official letter of the requirement, which I did, and, at his urgent request, inclosed a copy of your letter. I have taken pains to explain to him the situation that existed in Washington last winter, and that the attitude of the department is not one of hostility to the company but necessary to avoid sinister results. While admitting in one breath a knowledge of the Elliott campaign and anathemizing that individual, he states that the company will lose money this year because of the restriction of his business, and thinks the department has been "hard" on him. Nevertheless, he will realize the situation when he thinks twice, and he has been informed firmly but pleasantly that your instructions will be carried out to the letter.

Will it be too much trouble, Mr. Hitchcock, to have a files case containing private letters, left on my desk on the third floor, wrapped up and placed where it will not be lost? I overlooked it in the rush of departure.

I will say that we look forward to a pleasant season of hard work and that we will work together to make this season's efforts satisfactory in every detail.

Very truly, yours, W. I. LEMBKEY.

MAY 28, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

MY DEAR MR. LEMBKEY: The note you sent me from San Francisco under date of the 20th instant duly arrived, and I was glad to learn that the scales and also the photographic supplies reached you before your sailing.

The company's protest regarding the department's decision to fix the minimum weight of skins at 5½ pounds was brought to our attention here at Washington before the sailing of the steamer and was filed for future reference.

In accordance with your wish, the file case of private letters you inadvertently left on your desk has been securely wrapped up, properly labeled, and deposited in the file room of the department, where it will be in safe keeping until you return.

It is my purpose to ship to the islands by the revenue cutter *Perry* which is expected to leave Seattle on June 15, the fur-clipping appa-

ratus, with a truck on which to mount it, and two Carlton 8 by 10 camera outfits. One of the camera outfits is to be used on St. Paul and the other on St. George. I shall also send you a No. 7 Remington typewriter for official use on the islands.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, May 18, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

By telegram of to-day North American Commercial Co. has been authorized to land temporarily on seal islands 12 extra laborers to discharge coal, taking precautionary measures hitherto required against contagion. In event a certain number of native laborers are incapacitated by epidemic, company may land an equal number of temporary laborers, not exceeding 50 in all.

———— ————,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MAY 18, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: This is to confirm my telegram of this afternoon, which was as follows:

By telegram of to-day North American Commercial Co. has been authorized to land temporarily on seal islands 12 extra laborers to discharge coal, taking precautionary measures hitherto required against contagion. In event a certain number of native laborers are incapacitated by epidemic, company may land an equal number of temporary laborers, not exceeding 50 in all.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE OF
ALASKA SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt yesterday, by the *Thetis*, of your letter of May 18 last confirmatory of your telegram of the same date containing authority for the North American Commercial Co. to land a certain number of laborers temporarily on the seal islands.

In the exercise of this authority the company landed eight laborers who assisted the native force on this island in bringing ashore the

cargo of the company's vessel *Kruger*, and six of whom departed on that vessel for Unalaska, where they reside. The remaining two were kept on St. Paul Island to perform laboring work during the employment of the natives on the sealing field, and will return to Unalaska on the *Kruger* when that vessel arrives here in August for the skins.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

[Copy of original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, October 17, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter of July 28 last to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, stating that in accordance with the authority granted, the North American Commercial Co. landed eight laborers on St. Paul Island for service in assisting the native force employed there.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 7, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have to report my arrival here on the 6th instant, after a stay of a few hours on St. George.

While badly handicapped for time, I found opportunity on the latter island to explain to Maj. Clark the novel features involved in the current instructions, and to furnish him with extracts from such letters from you as relate to the weight of skins, the marking of bachelors, and the importance of obtaining full statistics on St. George during the coming summer. Mr. Judge and myself also counted the bulls on two rookeries on St. George during our stay there.

I found the record of seals on St. George to be as follows:

Left over, Sept. 1, 1903	1
Food killings, Oct. 19, 1903, to May 31, 1904	497
Killing by lessee, June 1, 1904	26
Total	524

Average weight, 6½ pounds.

Foxes killed on St. George, winter of 1903–4:

Blues	471
Whites	15
	486

The total native population on St. George on my arrival was 94. There have been five births and three deaths during the current fiscal year, an increase of two.

Count of seals on St. George, June 5, 1904: North rookery, 102 bulls, 8 immature bulls, 7 bulls in the surf not landed, and 10 bachelors; Staraya Artel, 30 bulls, 18 bachelors, 1 half bull.

On June 10, 1903, there were: North rookery, 109 bulls, 8 holustiaki; Staraya Artel, 32 bulls, 20 holustiaki.

Our counts on St. George would lead us to believe that little or no diminution will appear in the number of breeding bulls. Later developments may change this opinion, however.

Since our arrival yesterday we have counted the following seals on St. Paul:

	Bulls.	Bulls not stationed.		Bulls.	Bulls not stationed.
Reef	179	42	Amphitheater	5	2
Ardiguen	9		Lukanin	41	5
Gorbatch cliff	10	3	Lagoon	16	9
Gorbatch	104	11	Tolstoi cliff	30	2
Ketovi	36	11	Tolstoi	120	4

On June 10, 1903, the following counts were made:

	Bulls.	Half bulls.		Bulls.	Half bulls.
Gorbatch cliff	15		Ketovi	53	
Gorbatch	113		Amphitheater	6	3
Ardiguen	13		Lukanin	51	3

It is probable that there will be a decrease noted in the breeding bulls on St. Paul, but, perhaps in a smaller degree than noted last year.

There were killed for food on St. Paul last winter, 2,065 seals, and this spring, for quota, 179. These, with 312 on hand from last year, make a total of 2,556 in the salt house.

Last winter 15 blue and 5 white foxes were taken on St. Paul. There will be no foxing there the ensuing winter.

I regret the lack of time necessary to make a more complete statement. I have delayed this until within an hour of the ship's sailing in order that I might include additional seal data which Mr. Judge has been collecting. Mr. Chichester will be on St. George for the summer, and I have informed him thoroughly regarding the necessity for good work on St. George.

With the promise of a good season's work, I am, believe me,

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent, Seal Islands.

JULY 9, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The letter you addressed to me from St. Paul Island, under date of June 7, 1904, is received, and I have noted with interest what you say regarding conditions on the islands.

On June 30, as you have probably learned from other correspondents, Hon. George B. Cortelyou resigned the position of Secretary of Commerce and Labor to become chairman of the Republican national committee. The new Secretary is Hon. Victor H. Metcalf, of California. He took charge of the department on July 1. This change in Secretaries made it impracticable for me to carry out my plan of visiting the seal islands during the present season. I gave up the trip with great reluctance.

I am glad to note that you are taking such pains to have the new instructions thoroughly understood by your assistants. I shall await with great interest such further news as you may send me regarding the season's work.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

JUNE 8, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: In response to an inquiry regarding his experience in photographing the rookeries on the seal islands, Mr. Charles H. Townsend, director of the New York Aquarium, sends me word that the photographs should be finished before July 18 and that they should be taken from the same stations as hitherto.

With the reasons for these suggestions you are doubtless familiar, but as a measure of precaution I bring to your attention what Mr. Townsend says.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE
SEAL FISHERIES, ALASKA,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th of June last, which arrived yesterday by the *Thetis*, wherein is stated the belief of Mr. C. H. Townsend that photographs of the rookeries should not be taken later than the 18th of July.

This belief is well founded on the fact that after the 15th or 16th of July the harem formations lose their compactness, the cows spread out over an area not previously occupied, and that photographs taken after the date mentioned would be misleading in showing the seals to cover a greater area than they do at the height of the breeding season.

Unfortunately, however, the camera and supplies did not reach this island until the 27th instant, long after the seals have spread out. It will, therefore, be impossible to take any photographs of the rookeries this year, much to my regret.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

OCTOBER 17, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter of July 28 last to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, stating that the camera and supplies did not reach you in time to permit the taking of photographs of the rookeries this year.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

JUNE 8, 1904.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent for Seal Islands,
St George Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: In response to an inquiry regarding his experience in photographing the rookeries on the seal islands, Mr. Charles H. Townsend, director of the New York Aquarium, sends me word that the photographs should be finished before July 18 and that they should be taken from the same stations as hitherto.

With the reasons for these suggestions you are doubtless familiar but as a measure of precaution I bring to your attention what Mr. Townsend says.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

JUNE 18, 1904.

SIR: You are authorized to proceed as soon as practicable to the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, for the purpose of supervising the enforcement of the regulations prescribed by the department for the conduct of the fur-seal service during the present season and also for the purpose of inquiring into the condition of the fur-seal herd and of affairs in general on the islands. If it seems desirable, you are authorized to return to Washington by the way of San Francisco in order to confer with the officials of the North American Commercial Co. at that city regarding the enforcement of the company's contract with the Government.

You are also authorized, if the opportunity is presented, to visit Victoria, British Columbia, for the purpose of gaining information regarding the present status of the pelagic sealing industry.

Your necessary traveling expenses will be paid from the appropriation for contingent expenses, Department of Commerce and Labor.

Respectfully,

———— ————,
Secretary.

Mr. FRANK H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

JULY 26, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: Mr. Garfield, Commissioner of Corporations, informs me that owing to a recent death that has occurred in the family of Mr. Harry D. Chichester, one of the assistant agents, there are good

reasons for permitting him to return to his home as promptly after the close of the season's work as a proper discharge of his duties in connection therewith will permit.

While the circumstances do not appear to be such as to warrant his leaving before the active operations of the season are brought to a close, you may allow him to start homeward as promptly thereafter as in your judgment appears to be wise.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, August 12, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have to make the following summarized report of the condition of affairs on the seal islands of Alaska during the sealing season ended July 31, 1904:

The following number of seals was killed during the season by the lessee on its quota:

St. Paul	8,732
St. George	1,500
	10,232

The following number of seals was killed for food before and after the regular sealing season or left on hand from previous seasons:

St. Paul	2,545
St. George	496
	3,041

The figures for St. Paul include 140 skins taken for food on August 9, 1904.

The following shipment of skins will be made by the company this fall:

St. Paul	11,132
St. George	1,996
	13,128

The lessee's quota of 15,000 skins was not filled for the reason that a sufficient number of seals of proper size was not present.

The following number of bachelors was branded this spring:

	2-year-olds.	3-year-olds.	4-year-olds.
St. Paul	800	800	50
St. George	200	200	.....
Total	1,000	1,000	50

Branding was completed on St. Paul on June 25 and on St. George July 2.

The number of breeding bulls with harems, and idle bulls, found this summer on both islands was as follows:

	Harems.	Idle.	Total.
St. Paul	1,790	232	2,022
St. George	312	62	374
Total	2,102	294	2,396

The counts of pups on both islands at the end of the season of 1904, with a comparison of the counts for the season of 1903, follow:

	1904	1903	Decrease.
St. Paul	21,309	24,801	3,492
St. George	13,583	14,647	1,064

The census of breeding cows and of bulls breeding and idle on the two islands for the seasons of 1903 and 1904 follows:

	Bulls.			Cows.		
	1903	1904	Decrease.	1903	1904	Decrease.
St. Paul	2,402	2,022	382	82,649	74,002	8,647
St. George	[1] 415	374	41	14,647	13,583	1,064
Total	.....	2,396	423	97,296	87,585	9,711

[1] Estimated.

The average harem during the past season (1904) was 39.83, as compared with 40.29 during the season of 1903. The lessening of the average harem is caused by the fact that the decrease in breeding cows during the interval between the seasons of 1903–4 was greater than the decrease in bulls.

On the area on which pups were counted on St. Paul Island the decrease in harems was found to be 13.99 per cent, while the decrease in pups or breeding cows was 14.9 per cent.

During the season of 1904 there occurred in the various drives of the season, and including the food drive on the 9th of August, 641 large rejections, 4,794 small rejections, and 1,888 rejections of branded seals. During the same period in 1903 the rejections were as follows: 912 large and 1,185 small. The increase in rejections from drives in 1904 was the result of the regulations restricting the killing to a minimum of $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

All skins taken on St. George during the sealing season, as reported by Agent Clark, were weighed. On St. Paul all but 145 skins taken during the sealing season were weighed, the latter number being overlooked by the natives who gathered up the skins on the field for weighing. The bulk of the company's catch is skins of 2-year-olds, but a fair number of 3-year-olds also were taken. No yearlings were included in the catch, and but few were seen in the drives.

One yearling was killed by me during the summer to determine the weight of that class of skins. The entire animal—a female—weighed 33 pounds, and its pelt weighed 3⅛ pounds.

A detailed report of the season's work will be made as soon as practicable after the departure of the company's vessel.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

[Copy of original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, October 17, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter of August 12 last, to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, making a summarized report of the condition of affairs on the seal islands of Alaska during the sealing season ended July 31, 1904.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed.) F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, August 13, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have to inclose with this letter, for the information of the department, certificates of the shipment from the sea islands this summer, by the North American Commercial Co., of 13,128 fur-seal skins, representing the quota of the lessee of the sealing right on the Pribilof Islands for the season of 1904.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Two inclosures.

[Inclosure 1.]

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August, 1904.

This is to certify that eleven thousand one hundred thirty-two (11,132) fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *W. H. Kruger*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.
K. A. AHLIN,
Master, Steamer "W. H. Kruger."

[Inclosure 2.]

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 8, 1904.

This is to certify that one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six (1,996) fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Kruger* consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Treasury Agent.
K. A. AHLIN,
Master, "W. H. Kruger."

OCTOBER 17, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, dated August 13 last, without signature, inclosing certificates of shipments from the seal islands this summer by the North American Commercial Co. of 13,128 fur-seal skins, representing the quota of the lessee of the sealing right on the Pribilof Islands for the season of 1904.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, August 13, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have to transmit herewith, for suitable action thereon, my account for salary and expenses for the month of June, 1904, the expense representing the cost of my transportation from Columbus, Ohio, to St. Paul Island, Alaska, in pursuance of instructions contained in department letter of May 1 last, a copy of which is inclosed also.

Very truly, yours,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Alaska Seal Fisheries.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, October 17, 1904.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Alaska Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter of April 13 last to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, inclosing your account for salary and expenses for the month of June, 1904.

Your voucher will be approved and forwarded to the disbursing clerk for action.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
August 16, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: Mr. Henry L. Ward, custodian of the Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis., has applied to the department for a group of fur-seal specimens to be deposited in his museum, and it has been decided to grant his request, provided the desired skins can be obtained from seals meeting death from natural causes or through accident.

If the specimens can be furnished without interfering in any manner with the duties of the agents or the rights of the lessees, you are authorized to reserve for the Milwaukee Museum one old bull, one immature bull, two cows, and two pups, or such of these specimens as can be found to have met death from natural or accidental causes. The museum will be advised that any services performed by the natives in preparing specimens are to be properly remunerated and that it will also be expected to defray the expenses of transportation from the islands.

It is to be understood, of course, that the request of the Milwaukee Museum is not to be complied with until the specimens desired by the museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, the prior application of which was brought to your attention in my letter of May 12, 1904, have been reserved.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, May 31, 1905.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 16 last, containing authority to furnish the Milwaukee Public Museum with the skins of one bull seal, one immature male, two cows, and two pups, should such seals be found dead on the rookeries.

I will state, in reply, that should specimens of this character be found, they will be collected by us, and will be shipped to the institution mentioned, provided the lessee of the islands is willing to undertake the cost of their preparation and shipment and to look to the museum for reimbursement.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *August 26, 1904.*

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Care Republican National Committee,
1 Madison Avenue, New York.

I arrived here to-day.

H. D. CHICHES[illegible]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
San Francisco, Cal., August 26, 1904.

SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

Arrived here to-day. Kindly note my letter this date.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Seal Agent.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, August 27, 1904.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your telegram of the 26th instant, reporting your arrival at San Francisco, Cal., and referring to a letter addressed by you to the Secretary on the date named.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) F. H. BOWEN,
Acting Chief Clerk.

SAN FRANCISCO, *August 26, 1904.*

Hon. VICTOR H. METCALF,
Secretary Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival by the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Kruger*, which reached this port at 8 a. m. this day.

The *Kruger* brought the season's take of sealskins, being 11,132 from the island of St. Paul and 1,996 from the island of St. George; a total of 13,128. The passage was attended with good weather and was a quick one. All the people on both islands were well at date of steamer's sailing.

I have the honor to request of the department permission to return to Washington by way of Seattle, Wash., which is my legal residence, and to stop at that city for two or three weeks if not inconsistent with the public business.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, September 1, 1904.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge Alaskan Seal Fisheries,
San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: Your letter to the Secretary, under date of the 26th ultimo, reporting your arrival at San Francisco on that date by the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Kruger*, has been received.

Your statement that 11,132 sealskins were taken this season from the island of St. Paul and 1,996 skins from the island of St. George is also noted.

By direction of the Secretary you are granted permission to stop at Seattle, Wash., on your way to Washington, for a period of three weeks.

Very truly, yours, (Signed) F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
August 29, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: I am inclosing herewith for verification, so far as it relates to property in your possession, a statement from the War Department of ordnance and ordnance stores turned over to the Department of Commerce and Labor. Please return the statement with your reply.

Very truly, yours, F. H. BOWEN,
Acting Chief Clerk.

[Senate Document No. 98, Fifty-ninth Congress, first session.]

ANNUAL REPORT TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR, 1904, OF W. I. LEMBKEY, AGENT ALASKAN SEAL FISHERIES.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
September 7, 1904.

DEAR SIR: I have to submit the following report of the operations on the seal islands of Alaska during the year ended August 1, 1904:

ARRIVAL AT ISLANDS.

In company with Assistant Agent James Judge, on the lessee's steamer *W. H. Kruger*, sailing from San Francisco May 24, 1904, I reached St. George Island June 5 and St. Paul Island the following morning, June 6. Agent Chichester, who had passed the preceding winter on St Paul, was requested to take passage for St. George, there to assist Agent Clark in the season's work. At the close of the summer both these gentlemen took passage on the company's steamer *Kruger* for San Francisco en route for their homes. Agent Judge remained with me on St. Paul during the summer and on August 14 took passage on the *Kruger* for St. George, where he will be in charge during the ensuing winter.

BRANDING OF BACHELORS.

The marking of the number of young male seals required by the department's instructions occupied my attention at once upon arrival at the islands.

These instructions required the marking and releasing of 1,000 three-year-old males and 1,000 two-year-old males, in the proportion of 800 of each class from St. Paul and 200 of each from St. George. Because of statements made last winter before the Ways and Means Committee

and differing analyses of the classification of sizes of Pribilof Islands' sealskins exposed for sale in London last year, some doubt existed in my mind whether a greater number of 3-year-old males existed than were required to be marked and released. In order to secure the number of 3-year-old seals to be reserved on St. Paul, therefore, I considered it necessary to obtain them before the company began to kill for its quota.

I therefore notified the representative of the company, Mr. Redpath, that I would be obliged to withhold permission to drive for skins until drives had been made from the several hauling grounds and the requisite number of each class of bachelors obtained and marked.

I was required to take this action also from the fact that by the department's instructions the seals so to be marked were to be of the best animals appearing in the first drives of the season. As the first seals to reach the hauling grounds are always the strongest and finest in appearance, it was obvious that the seals to be branded should be from this class.

DRIVES FOR BRANDING.

The drives for branding were made as expeditiously as the presence of seals on the hauling grounds justified. On June 11 a small drive was secured from the reef, from which were branded 15 two-year-olds, 63 three-year-olds, and 5 four-year-olds. On June 16 another drive from the same rookery was made, from which 188 two-year-olds and 273 three-year-olds were branded, or a total from that rookery of 544 seals, including those branded previously—203 twos, 336 threes, and 5 fours. As that was considered a sufficient number to be branded from the reef the branding apparatus was brought to the village.

Our next object was to brand at Zapadni, and to take the forges there in boats. As the landings continued too rough to take boats to that point it was determined, for the sake of expedition, to bring what seals could be found on the hauling ground at Zapadni overland as near to the village as possible, and to brand them there. Accordingly, drivers were sent overland on the evening of June 20 to Zapadni, from which place they made a drive and brought it during the night to the head of the lagoon, about a mile from the village, and on the morning of June 21 the gang was taken there on foot, the forges being hauled by a team and wagon belonging to the company. As the result of a morning's work 274 two-year-olds and 130 three-year-olds were branded from Zapadni.

While the main party was working on these seals, a few drivers were sent to Tolstoi hauling ground near by, and a small drive secured from that rookery. They were kept separate from the Zapadni seals, and after the latter were branded, work on the Tolstoi seals was begun. But a heavy rain began to fall about this time, and after branding 31 two-year-olds and 8 three-year-olds from Tolstoi the seals' fur became so saturated with water that the hot irons made no impression on it. We accordingly had to cease branding, and what remained of the Tolstoi drive of a killable size were knocked down and skinned. The branding apparatus and the skins taken, 33 in number, were left on the field, and brought in next day by the company's team.

The only remaining hauling ground on the island was Northeast Point, and it was determined to secure the remainder of our quota of branded seal from that place. We were delayed in so doing by the rough weather, which made it impossible to use our boats to take up

the branding outfit and the natives, and especially by the reports from the watchmen that only a meager supply of seals was there. Mr. Redpath, the company's agent, objected to delaying the company's business of taking seals at the point by the branding, but I had no other alternative, being still short over 300 seals of the quota of 800 three-year-olds. He then offered the use of the teams to take the gear to the point, hoping thereby to expedite the work of the company by disposing of the branding.

On June 22 the watchmen at Northeast Point reported only 200 seals there. As we needed over 600 it was thought best to defer until more seals had hauled up. On June 23 only 200 were reported present. On June 24 no increase was reported, but it was determined not to wait longer and to go up and get what was there and to make another drive at that place if necessary to fill the branding quota.

On June 24, therefore, with three teams, a start was made to Northeast Point, and early the following morning a drive was secured. I was agreeably surprised to find nearly 1,000 seals in the drive instead of only the 200 reported by the watchmen.

On June 25 we commenced branding at 7.30 in the morning. It being a warm, dry day, by 10 a. m. the seals were so warm as to show exhaustion and to make it decidedly unwise to work them further. They accordingly were turned into a small lake to cool off and kept there until 3 p. m., when they were driven out. By 4 p. m. they were dry enough to be branded, and the work commenced and continued until 7 p. m., when a total of 292 two-year-olds and 326 three-year-olds had been branded, filling the quota of 800 of each class for this island. As an experiment, 45 four-year-olds were branded and 2 seven-year-old bulls from those of that class found in the drive. The necks of the bulls were so large in proportion to the size of their heads that much trouble was experienced in keeping the snares from slipping over their heads; but they were finally secured and branded, just to show what the gang could do. The four-year-olds were branded because they were of killable size and might, if not marked, be inadvertently clubbed during the season.

After finishing branding I notified Mr. Allis, one of the company's agents, that I had branded the number of seals required of this island by the department, and that I would, therefore, turn over the business to the company to get what skins they could for their quota. As a small number of seals was still left in the drive after branding all that were necessary, such as were of killable size were clubbed and skinned and the pelts left on the ground till morning, to be then weighed and salted, it being too late to do any more work that day.

The next morning it was found that 141 skins had been secured the previous evening.

The tabulated result of the branding operations on St. Paul follows:

Date.	Rookeries.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.
1904.				
June 11	Reef	15	63	5
16	do	188	273	.....
21	Zapadni	274	130	.....
21	Tolstoi	31	8	.....
25	Northeast Point	292	326	45
	Total	800	800	50

METHODS USED IN BRANDING.

The method of driving bachelors for branding was similar to that used in driving for skins. When the drive reached the appointed place small pods were successively cut out, as in clubbing. The detached pod was surrounded by men provided with poles about 7 feet long, at the end of which was a loop of rope, with both ends fastened to the pole. This noose of rope was passed over the head of the animal and enough turns taken to twist it tight around the seal's neck. The animal was then dragged by means of the noose and pole away from the pod and its head held down securely by a long pole or yoke laid across its neck, the yoke held down by a man on either end. On many occasions, when the animal was especially large or vigorous, it was further secured by having its hind flippers grasped and held off the ground by an extra man, who also put a foot on either fore flipper, rendering the seal incapable of twisting its head clear from the yoke.

The animal was then ready for branding, which was done by means of a red-hot iron bar, heated in a forge, passed quickly between the eyes to the back of the head, and then across the head forward of the ears, at right angles to the first brand, the whole mark resembling a letter T.

BRANDING ON ST. GEORGE.

On St. George, as reported by Agent Clark, branding was begun on June 7, when a drive of 17 seals was secured, out of which 8 three-year-olds and 1 two-year-old were branded. From this date the branding was continued by selections made from the drives. Hot irons were used. On the 21st of June rain was falling, rendering the use of the hot irons impossible. Some sheep shears in the possession of the company were then tried for clipping the hair and fur, and, according to Maj. Clark, it was found that an effective mark could be made with the shears even more conspicuous than that made with the hot iron. It was found further that by the use of the shears the work of branding need not be delayed for wet weather, as they could be used with equal facility on wet as on dry seals. The branding on St. George subsequent to June 21, therefore, was done with shears. The entire quota on St. George of 200 two-year-olds and 200 three-year-olds was obtained by July 2.

The list of brandings on that island as reported to me follows:

Dates.	3-year-olds.	2-year-olds.
June 7	8	1
June 11	4	13
June 16	45	21
June 21	25	13
June 23	122	41
June 28	.....	68
July 2	.....	43
Total	204	200

DRIVES DURING BRANDING.

During the period necessary to obtain the quota of branded seals two small drives were made from Tolstoi to furnish food for the natives, from which 119 skins were secured. On June 20, having obtained all the seals it was thought advisable to brand from the reef, the company was authorized to make a drive for skins from that rookery, from which 247 skins were taken. The meat from the carcasses of seals killed on this drive was a welcome addition to the natives' supply of fresh meat, of which they had had but little since the vessel arrived.

DRIVES MADE BY THE COMPANY.

As soon as branding was finished the company began killing for skins, and killed as often during the summer as the numbers of bachelors on the hauling grounds would justify.

Since the 1st of June, 1904, up to and including July 31 following, 33 killings of bachelors were made, including the two on June 21 and 25 from drives made for branding. Of these June killings, however, one was made on Sea Lion Rock on June 4 by the Government officer to furnish food for the natives. As the company by its contract is not allowed to drive from that place, and as the two drives for branding mentioned were made also by direction of the Government agent, and can not, in justice, be charged to the company, it may be said that the company made 30 drives for skins on St. Paul during the period from June 1 to July 31.

The company's killing season, however, actually did not commence on St. Paul until after June 25, on which date branding was finished.

NUMBER OF FOOD DRIVES BY GOVERNMENT AGENTS.

During the fall of 1903 and spring of 1904, 13 drives were made by the Government agent on St. Paul to supply food for the natives and the foxes. Adding to these the 2 killings from drives made for branding, and 1 drive made on August 9 for food during the stagey season, and a total is had of 16 drives under the management of the Government officers on St. Paul.

NUMBER OF SKINS TAKEN.

During the drives on St. Paul by Government agents 2,586 skins were taken. During the drives made by the company 8,379 skins were taken, or a total of 10,965 skins taken on St. Paul since the close of the last season. Adding to this number 312 skins left on hand from previous seasons gives a final total of 11,277 skins in salt on arrival of the company's vessel on August 11, 1904.

Of these, 11,132 skins were shipped from St. Paul Island, as evidenced by the shipping receipt forwarded in my letter of August 13. This would leave 145 skins in the salt house to be applied toward the catch of next season.

On St. George 1 skin was left in the salt house from the preceding season. From October 19, 1903, to May 31, 1904, there were 15

drives made for food by the Government agents, exclusive of 5 killings of 2 skins each by the watchmen at Zapadni. A total of 496 skins was thus secured, including the 1 skin left over. From June 1 to July 31, 1904, 22 drives were made by the company for skins, excluding one killing of 2 seals made at Zapadni for watchmen's food. A total of 1,500 skins was secured during the period allowed the company to kill. At the end of the season 1,996 skins were in salt on St. George, all of which were shipped by the lessee toward its quota of 2,000 for that island.

WEIGHTS OF SKINS.

On St. Paul Island all skins taken in every killing made since my arrival there this spring were weighed on the scales provided by the department, with the exception of 145 skins overlooked by the natives in gathering up the skins on the field for the purpose of weighing. A detailed summary of the weights for St. Paul is appended, marked "Exhibit 4."

On St. George, as reported by Agent Clark, all skins taken after the 1st of June last were weighed. His list of weights, marked "Exhibit 16," is attached also.

Agent Clark reports that the greatest care was exercised in keeping the weights within the limits specified by the department. A series of measurements was made by Mr. Chichester, showing the average length of a seal the skin of which weighed a given number of pounds. When doubt arose on St. George as to the eligibility of an animal, it was hauled out of the drive by a snare, measured, and killed or rejected as the measurement showed the skin to be within the acceptable class or otherwise. Notwithstanding these precautions, over 5 per cent of the skins taken on St. George, as reported to me by Agent Clark, were under the limit of 5½ pounds.

On St. Paul, where sometimes two-thirds as many seals were handled in one day as were killed on St. George during the whole summer, it was not feasible to measure seals or to delay the killing while the seal in question was under debate. Dependence was had solely in the judgment of the clubbers to select seals having skins over 5½ pounds. Of the 8,408 skins weighed on St. Paul, 634, or 7 per cent, were under 5½ pounds. These include the road skins, or skins of seals becoming exhausted on the drive and clubbed by the drivers before death in order to save the skins from overheating. They include also seals struck accidentally in clubbing and dispatched to avoid the risk of the animal's dying at sea from the effects of the chance blow.

Of the 519 skins taken on St. Paul between 5 and 5½ pounds it may be said that they represent the impossibility of accurately determining in every instance the weight of a skin on a live seal to within a fraction of a pound.

Note should be taken also of the different methods of skinning practiced by the native workmen. Some skinners shave the skin to the very pelt, leaving no blubber adhering. Others leave more or less blubber on the skin, requiring, in some cases, the skin to be "blubbered" or reflensed. A difference in weight of from an ounce to 2 pounds thus can be made in skinning. A clean 5-pound skin shows underweight, but had half a pound of blubber been left on it it would have been within the limit and its appearance remained unaltered.

WET SKINS.

The weight of a sealskin depends largely upon the amount of moisture present at the time of killing. A skin will absorb from half a pound to a pound of water. If the killing is done in a wet place, or in wet grass with the rain falling, or if the animals are driven through water to cool them off, the skins will retain enough moisture to make the weights greater than if dry. On days when absolutely dry seals are killed the weights of the same sized skins will be lighter than on other days when moisture is present and the skins become wet.

MEASURES TO AVOID UNDERSIZED SKINS.

While I was cognizant of the fact that some skins of necessity must appear in the killings that were outside the prescribed limits, yet I thought it best, for a proper observance of the instructions, to bring to the notice of the clubbers on every killing the existence of the regulations and to request caution to avoid killing too small or too large seals.

On June 29, owing to the presence of small skins in the catch, I had a conference with the company's general agent, Mr. Redpath, in which I asked for instructions to the clubbers enjoining particular care in clubbing to avoid the killing of these smaller animals. These instructions were given cheerfully and in my presence. On July 19, subsequent to a drive made that day from the Reef and Gorbatch, when 76 per cent of the whole number of seals driven were killed and 14 per cent of the skins were either under or over the prescribed weights, I had another conference with Mr. Redpath. I showed him the table of weights compiled from those taken during the various drives made this summer and called his attention to the number of undersized skins weighed. I stated that I was forced to protest against the presence of these skins in the killings, and had it in mind to make the protest in writing in order that a record of my action may be made. Mr. Redpath in reply expressed his surprise that that number of small skins was present and assured me that thereafter the greatest care in clubbing would be exercised.

The next morning, in the killing from Zapadni, Mr. Redpath made a short but forceful speech to the clubbers, cautioning them to avoid killing any undersized seals at all hazards and instructing them, if there was any doubt as to the size of an animal, to allow the seal to escape. I have no hesitancy in stating that on that and subsequent killings seals were released which would have furnished 5½-pound pelts.

On the 25th of July I had another talk with Mr. Redpath on the occasion of the appearance of 28 undersized skins in the killing from Zapadni. On this date I furnished him with a detailed statement of the weights of skins taken since our conference of the 19th. He stated that it was impossible to avoid the killing of some seals in the prohibited classes without allowing the escape of a number of eligible seals, but that he would make every effort to keep the weights at the proper standard. He then took from the clubbing gang several young clubbers, leaving the clubs in the hands of old and experienced men only.

These facts are not cited for the purpose of charging the company with any attempt to exceed the regulations, as nothing of that kind was done, but to show that, with all proper care taken, ineligible skins were unavoidably present.

On St. Paul, to guard against the killing of 4-year-olds, I placed a limit of 8½ to 9 pounds as the maximum weight of skins. Against this action Mr. Redpath, for the company, protested. During the season, however, 171 skins were taken over 9 pounds in weight, which is due, so far as I am able to say, to errors in judgment in clubbing and to the other causes which led to the presence of underweight skins in the killings.

REJECTIONS FROM DRIVES.

The true test, however, of the efficacy of the regulations designed to prevent too close killing is found in the record of seals dismissed as ineligible from the drives made on St. Paul since the time when the regulations were given effect.

In order to insure as great accuracy as possible, Mr. Judge and I divided the work of counting the seals dismissed, he keeping a record of the branded seals turned away, while I took note of the number of those dismissed that were not branded. Our record of dismissals, therefore, is as nearly accurate as could be made.

In 1903, when no restriction was placed on killing, there were 912 large and 1,185 small rejections. Of these small rejections only 723 were made during the lessee's sealing season, the remainder, 426, occurring during the two food drives made by the Government agents on August 4 and 10. During the period of killing by the lessee in 1903, therefore, its agents turned away only 723 small seals as ineligible.

In 1904, after the enforcement of the regulations requiring branding and the establishment of a 5½-pound minimum limit of weight, there were 641 large dismissals, 4,794 small dismissals, and 1,888 dismissals of branded seals. As the latter are composed of 2 and 3 year olds—immature seals—they may properly be added to the list of small rejections. There actually occurred, therefore, during the summer of 1904, 641 large and 6,682 small rejections on St. Paul.

As only one food drive was made in August, 1904, on St. Paul, when 5 large and 302 small and 11 branded seals were dismissed, it will be seen that the greater portion of the rejections occurred during the lessee's sealing season and were turned away by its agents.

The dismissals by the lessee's agents during the lessee's sealing seasons of 1903 and 1904 on St. Paul follow:

Years.	Large.	Small.
1903	884	723
1904	636	6,369

The whole record of dismissals for the two seasons is as follows:

Years.	Large.	Small.
1903	912	1,185
1904	641	6,682

The decrease in 1904 in large rejections is due to the lessened number of that class of males on the hauling ground, caused by close killing. The increase in 1904 of 5,497 small dismissals over the preceding year shows at a glance that the condition sought to be alleviated has been met.

I regret to state that I have been unable to find among the otherwise complete statistics furnished me by Agent Clark of the season's work on St. George a list of seals dismissed. I have taken such steps as I was able, however, to have the data furnished this fall by Agent Judge.

Note should be made in passing of the number of branded seals appearing in this summer's drives on St. Paul. The whole number branded on that island was 1,650, composed of 800 two-year-olds, 800 three-year-olds, and 50 four-year-olds. Of the rejections of branded seals, 1,320 were of the two-year class and 568 of the three-year class. Knowing that 800 of the two-year class were in existence, it would appear that there were 520, or 65 per cent, more rejections in that class than the whole number known to exist. Of the 800 three-year-olds branded, only 71 per cent of the whole number returned and were dismissed during the summer. As this is the first opportunity given to experiment with the percentage of return of a given number of seals, the information is interesting, and shows that the 2-year-old seals haul much more frequently than the 3-year-olds.

A number of St. George brands appeared in the drives on St. Paul. The St. Paul brands, as reported by Agents Clark and Chichester, were also present in some number on St. George. It was not thought to keep a record of these seals from the other island until late in the season. It would go to prove, however, that a greater fluctuation exists among bachelors than before supposed.

WORK ON ROOKERIES.

Counts of seals.—Agent Judge and I made as many intermediate counts of seals on the various rookeries as was possible during the summer, in addition to the regular counts of harems at the height of the season and the count of pups at the end of July.

The harem count, which includes idle bulls, and mature young bulls giving ground on our approach, termed by us "quitters," as well as regular bulls occupied with cows, follows:

Rookeries.	Harems.	Idle.		Total idle.	Total bulls.
		Stationed.	"Quitters."		
Lukanin	51	7	7	14	65
Ketovi	69	6	3	9	78
Amphitheater	12	.....	2	2	14
Lagoon	24	5	1	6	30
Tolstoi Cliffs	38	4	3	7	45
Tolstoi	149	20	.....	20	169
Zapadni Reef	46	4	4	8	54
Little Zapadni	100	10	.....	10	110
Zapadni	250	31	4	35	285
Gorbatch Cliffs	12	1	.....	1	13
Gorbatch	151	9	6	15	166
Reef	286	22	10	32	318
Ardiguen	15	1	.....	1	16
Northeast Point	454	31	9	40	494
Little Polovina	21	2	2	4	25
Polovina Cliffs	40	2	4	6	46
Polovina	72	17	5	22	94
Total	1,790	172	60	232	2,022

The number of idle bulls enumerated does not include "hauling-ground" bulls, or those young bulls found apart from the cows on the areas frequented by the bachelors. Some idea of this class of animals, constantly fluctuating in numbers, may be gathered by a reference to the number of large rejected seals marked in the statistics of killing for this year. This record of rejected seals does not contain an accurate count of all large seals found on the hauling grounds, as it is the object of the drivers to cut out or dismiss as many large seals as possible between the time when the drive is made and the time it reaches the killing ground.

An attempt was made by me this summer to classify the large rejected seals according to their ages. As the seals were turned from the killing ground to make their way back to the rookery, in addition to counting them I made as careful an estimate as I could of the ages of the large seals. As considerable difference of opinion has always existed regarding the ages of bulls and half bulls—and in fact bachelors—the classification made by me is given simply as my personal opinion of the ages of the large seals turned away. The table follows:

Date.	Rookeries.	4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	7 years.	8 years or over.
1904.						
June 10	Tolstoi	7	5	2		
15	do	4	1	2	2	
20	Reef	18	14	7	6	
21	Tolstoi	6	8	3	3	
25	Northeast Point	3	9	11	3	2
26	Polovina	6	6	4	8	
27	Reef	25	23	10	9	
29	Zapadni	5	3	1	2	
July 1	Northeast Point	21	9	3	1	
2	Tolstoi	6	5	13	8	2
4	Reef	3	4	2		
5	Zapadni	18				
7	Northeast Point		3	1	4	
8	Tolstoi	2	8	2	2	
9	Reef	7		2		4
11	Northeast Point	2	2	1	2	
14	Zapadni	10			1	2
15	Reef	2	5	7	3	1
16	Northeast Point	5	1	1		3
18	Tolstoi	6	2	4		
19	Reef					
20	Zapadni	4			1	
22	Notheast Point	12	7	6	3	1
23	Tolstoi	3	1			
25	Zapadni	6	2	13	1	3
26	Reef and Gorbatch	8	7	11	4	12
27	Polovina	2	1	4	2	2
27	Northeast Point	6	8	4	8	9
28	Tolstoi	4	4	2	4	2
29	Zapadni	12	12			1
30	Reef and Gorbatch	4	3	5	2	
31	Northeast Point	5	3	7	1	6
Aug. 9	Reef and Gorbatch	2				3
	Total	224	156	128	80	53

While the question may be open to discussion whether a seal is 6 or 7 years old, there can be no doubt, at least in my mind, of the fact that the seals marked in the table above as being less than 8 years of age are young animals and not superannuated wrecks, too old to perform the necessary funtions in a harem.

Counts of pups.—Beginning July 29, counts of pups were made on the rookery spaces where similar counts have been made for several years. The following table shows the counts so made, with those of 1903 inserted for purposes of comparison:

Rookeries.	1903			1904			Per cent decrease of harems.	Per cent decrease of pups.
	Harems.	Pups.	Average harem.	Harems.	Pups.	Average harem.		
Ketovi	74	2,350	31.75	69	2,147	31.11	0.067	0.086
Lagoon	26	1,262	48.53	24	1,084	45.16	.076	.141
Tolstoi Cliff	44	1,786	40.59	38	1,571	41.34	.136	.12
Zapadni Reef	44	1,320	30.00	46	1,091	23.71	[1].045	.173
Polovina Cliff	52	1,540	29.61	40	1,412	35.30	.23	.083
Ardiguen	15	575	38.33	15	565	37.66	.....	.017
Lukanin	56	2,453	43.80	51	2,020	39.60	.089	.176
West side Northeast Point	57	2,855	50.08	48	2,312	48.16	.157	.19
East side Northeast Point	31	993	32.03	19	831	43.73	.387	.193
Little Polovina	24	1,067	44.46	21	941	44.80	.125	.118
Polovina	85	4,472	52.61	72	3,691	51.26	.152	.174
Gorbatch Cliff	22	690	31.36	12	481	40.08	.454	.302
Sea Lion Rock	.....	2,923	.....	.....	2,705	.....	.....	.074
Amphitheater	13	515	39.61	12	458	38.16	.077	.110
Total	543	24,801	40.29	467	21,309	39.83	.1399	.149

[1] Increase.

The count of rookeries made from time to time during the season will be found appended as Exhibit 7.

DECREASE IN ROOKERY LIFE.

Bulls.—The count of bulls this summer on St. Paul, as shown on page 16, was 2,022 bulls, consisting of 1,790 harem masters and 232 idle, while that of the previous season (1903) was 2,402 bulls—1,984 harems and 418 idle. Their comparison shows a decrease of 380 bulls of all classes, or 15.8 per cent, as well as a decrease of 194 harem masters, or 9.7 per cent, and a decrease of 186 idle, or 44.5 per cent.

Cows.—As shown by the preceding table, a decrease of 3,492 breeding cows, or 14.9 per cent, on the rookery space on which pups were counted has occurred since 1903 on St. Paul.

Counts on St. George.—A summary of the counts of breeding bulls made on St. George this summer by Agents Clark and Chichester, as reported to me by Agent Clark, follows:

Rookeries.	Bulls.	Harems.	Idle.
North	141	128	13
East Cliffs	67	50	17
East Reef	24	21	3
Little East	19	18	1
Staraya Artel	53	39	14
Zapadni	70	56	14
Total	374	312	62

Estimating 415 bulls—364 harem masters and 51 idle bulls—on St. George in 1903, there would seem to be a decrease of 41 bulls there since that time.

Pups on St. George.—An actual count of pups on that island in 1904 disclosed 13,583 pups—13,312 live and 271 dead. By comparison with the count for 1903—14,582 live and 65 dead—a decrease of 1,064 breeding cows, or 7.2 per cent, is found.

CENSUS OF BREEDING COWS AND BULLS.

The number of breeding seals on St. Paul Island in 1904, as determined by the count of all the harems except those on Sea Lion Rock, where an estimate is made on the basis of the average harem of 39.83, and a count of pups on over one-fourth the rookery area (from which is determined the average harem, on which an estimate of seals on the remaining area was made), was 1,857 active and 232 idle bulls, and 74,002 adult females.

On St. George an actual enumeration of all bulls and pups shows 312 active and 62 idle bulls and 13,583 cows. This gives a total for both islands of 2,169 bulls with harems, 294 adult idle bulls, and 87,585 breeding cows.

COMPUTATION OF HALF BULLS.

In estimating the number of half bulls existing, reference is had to the table of killings, which shows 588 rejections of seals under 8 years of age, consisting of 224 four-year-olds, 156 five-year-olds, 128 six-year-olds, and 80 seven-year-olds. The rejections of branded seals this year shows that the older the bachelor the less often he will visit the hauling grounds. In the case of the branded 3-year-olds, not enough returned to the hauling grounds to make the number of subsequent rejections equal to the whole number branded. The actual number of rejections in this class was 568, or 71 per cent of the 800 branded. By this we know that in the 3-year-old class the whole number existant is greater than the whole number of rejections, even allowing that the same animal was driven twice in many cases.

That the frequency with which young males visit the hauling grounds becomes less as the age of the animal increases is but natural, for as the animal finds an attraction in the female increasing with its age, it assuredly would devote more and more of its time to seeking her. In the case, therefore, of the 4, 5, 6, and 7 year old classes, it is safe to assume that a greater number than 30 per cent was not present on the hauling grounds at any time during the season when drives were made, and that the addition of at least 50 per cent to the number of rejections would be a conservative estimate of the number of that class of animals. This method of computation would increase the number of rejections of young bulls found on the hauling ground on St. Paul—588—to 882, as the whole number of that class present on that island. While I have not, at present, a list of the rejections for St. George, it would be safe to estimate the half bulls on that island at one-fifth of the number found on St. Paul, or 176. For the two islands, therefore, according to this method of estimation, we have 1,058 half bulls between the ages of 4 and 7 years, which is more than likely below the number actually in being.

NUMBER OF BACHELORS AND VIRGIN COWS.

In 1902 the census of breeding cows showed 94,882 to be present on both islands. The offspring of these females are presumed to be equally divided as regards sex. The pups born that year therefore would consist of 47,441 males and an equal number of females.

Owing to their extreme youth and their inability to withstand the hardships of their migratory journey and the assaults of their natural enemies, a death rate of 50 per cent is accepted as occurring among

the pups from the time they leave the islands until they return the following year as yearlings. Assuming this condition to exist, there were, in 1903, 47,441 yearling seals, of which one half, or 23,720, were males and the remaining half females.

These seals, having survived the vicissitudes of the winter's journey and being inured to the hardships of the sea, were subject to a much smaller death rate during their migration as yearlings than they were as pups. This diminished death rate would be in the neighborhood of 30 per cent. Deducting 30 per cent from the number of yearlings in 1903 to allow for casualties at sea would bring 16,604 two-year-old cows and the same number of 2-year-old bachelors to the islands in 1904.

As, approximately, 9,000 two-year-old bachelors were killed this summer by the company, there would be left, at the close of the season of 1904, by this method of computation, 7,604 bachelor 2-year-olds and 16,604 two-year-old females.

Account has been taken heretofore only of casualties at sea from natural causes. No deduction has been made for decrease from pelagic sealing. What allowance to make from this cause is mere conjecture.

We know that, practically, 6,500 rejections of 2-year-old males occurred on the islands this summer. In the case of the 2-year-old branded rejects, the number of those turned away from the drives exceeded the whole number branded by 65 per cent. Applying this rule to the whole number turned away of the islands, the 6,500 dismissals would represent practically 4,500 animals. If 7,604 two-year-old males were in being, as shown by the previous computation, it would mean that there were 3,000 of this class that did not haul on the islands at all, or were present on Sea Lion Rock, Otter Island, Zapadni Point, and the other isolated hauling grounds, from which no drives were made.

While I know that seals were present on these places last mentioned, the fluctuation shown this summer among branded seals raises a doubt in my mind whether as many as 3,000 animals could avoid being driven at least once during the season. To avoid overestimation, I would rather place this number not driven at all at 1,000, leaving the difference of 2,000 to be accounted for as having been destroyed by the sea hunters.

If 2,000 is deducted from the previous estimate of the number of 2-year-old males, it must be taken also from the same estimate of the number of 2-year-old females (16,604), leaving 14,604 of that class in existence this summer.

FINAL ESTIMATE OF 2-YEAR-OLDS.

It is, therefore, estimated that 5,500 two-year-old males and 14,604 females of the same class were present this summer on the islands at the close of the sealing season.

YEARLINGS PRESENT IN 1904.

The census of 1903 showed 97,296 pups born. By the method of computation already used, one half, or 48,648, were males, and the other half females. As they would be reduced 50 per cent by their first winter's migration, 24,324 females and 24,324 males would return

to the islands in 1904 as yearlings, not counting the effects of pelagic sealing. The latter cause, during this spring and summer, probably destroyed 3,000 of each class, leaving 21,324 yearling males and 21,324 yearling females remaining at the close of the summer of 1904.

NUMBER OF 3-YEAR-OLD BACHELORS.

One thousand of this class of animals were branded this summer on the islands. The killings on St. Paul this summer, as nearly as I can determine, contained 1,037 skins of 3-year-olds, or those above $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds and under 9 pounds. Approximately 200 were killed on St. George. There were, therefore, at least 2,200 three-year-olds handled this summer on both islands. The dismissals of branded 3-year-old seals show only 71 per cent of the whole number present in the drives. It would be proper, therefore, to increase the whole number found present by 30 per cent, or 660, making a total of 2,860 to represent the number of 3-year-olds present this summer. As 1,200 of these were killed, there would be 1,660 still in existence.

SUMMARY OF SEAL LIFE.

A summary of all seal life on the islands, at the close of the season of 1904, based upon such counts as were made, and the preceding calculations, show the following:

Active bulls with harems	2,169
Idle bulls	294
Half bulls	1,058
Three-year-old bachelors	1,660
Two-year-old bachelors	5,500
Yearling bachelors	21,324
Breeding cows	87,585
Two-year-old cows	14,604
Yearling cows	21,324
Newborn pups	87,585
Total	243,103

SHRINKAGE IN ROOKERY SPACE.

From the data given it will be seen that a decrease in pups born has occurred since last year of 8,647 on St. Paul and 1,064 on St. George, the first marked decrease in pups occurring in the census for several years.

This decrease is not due to imperfect fertilization by bulls, but to an actual shrinkage in breeding females. This is apparent in the abandonment of certain portions of rookery space.

This shrinkage has occurred on the extremities of the rookeries marked, leaving the central portions as densely populated as heretofore.

For example, that portion of Ketovi rookery consisting of bowlder beach from Black Bluffs to Ketovi Point last year contained 14 harems. This year it contained 4 harems, in all of which were 10 cows. These 4 harems were located immediately adjacent to the point. The remainder of the rookery space mentioned was deserted.

The north half of Lukanin rookery is practically deserted. The high south portion was as densely populated as heretofore, but that

portion under the low bluffs—a favored spot of observation for years past—contained only 5 straggling harems of 1 or 2 cows each. At the north end of the breeding area several harems of 10 and 12 cows each occurred, but in the whole area mentioned the absence of cows was sadly apparent.

On the occasion of the landing of freight and passengers from the *Thetis* on July 27—the first vessel to visit the islands since the spring trip of the *Kruger*—it was not safe to take the boat back to East Landing. It was therefore brought around to Lukanin, and landed under the low bluffs mentioned, without disturbing a seal, where several years ago a succession of thriving families would have been found.

Gorbatch Cliffs is the narrow, outlying north end of Gorbatch rookery. This summer there were 12 harems there at the height of the season, and 481 pups. Last summer there were 22 harems and 690 pups, showing that a decrease of 30 per cent in cows occurred there.

The east side of Northeast Point, from No. 1 to and including Sea Lion Neck, to a mere observer, showed a decided shrinkage in seals. In 1903, 31 harems and 989 pups were counted here. In 1904 only 19 harems were found, and 831 pups. In this case the diminution in harems is more pronounced than in other localities. In 1903 the average harem in this space was 31+, while in 1904 it was 43+.

On the west side of Northeast Point a most visible shrinkage was noted, the area from the extreme west end to No. 94 being without any seals whatever. The average harem on the west side to No. 84 in 1904 was 48+, as against 50+ in 1903. Here the decrease in cows was greater than in bulls, hence the lowering of the average harem.

It is probable that in several years there will be no seals east of Sea Lion Neck at Northeast Point.

These instances, typical in their character, show that by no means the same number of cows was present in 1904 as in 1903, and that the decrease in pups noted on St. Paul Island occurred from a lack of adult females and not from a failure on the part of bulls last season to impregnate the cows. Had the latter been the case the same number of cows would have been noted, and the first evidence of diminution would have been met with in the count of pups. But the decided visible contraction in space occupied by cows this year shows that a much smaller number of cows was present, and that to this fact alone must be laid the absence of the usual number of pups.

PRESENCE OF IDLE BULLS.

With the decrease in adult bulls on all the rookeries of 382, or 15.8 per cent, from the number present last year, there were still 232 bulls on the rookeries this year that had no cows at the height of the season out of the 2,022 present, or 11 per cent. These were not superannuated bulls, "impotent and somnolent," as they have been stigmatized, but active bulls, eager for the cows that did not come, and much more aggressive and fierce than the bulls which had secured large harems and which had been doing duty as harem masters since the arrival of the females.

Our observations have led us to believe that bulls will return to the same position from year to year. If these positions are on rookery areas which are frequented by cows, the bulls occupying them will have large harems. If, on the other hand, the bulls chance to have

selected spots more or less deserted by cows, their harems will be small or they will have no harems at all. These positions are held by the bulls until at least the height of the season, even if they have been without cows. Then they probably leave their stations for a few days in the water, during which they rest and feed, to return, and, if possible, pick up a harem from the virgin cows and the broken-up harems of other bulls. By the 15th of August the rookeries may be said to be abandoned to these idle bulls, which, even at that late date, show considerable energy in the discharge of their duties as breeders.

DIMINUTION GREATER AMONG COWS.

On the rookery space on St. Paul on which pups were counted as well as bulls and harems—and from the count of which the average harem was established—the decrease in harems was found to be 13.99 per cent, while the decrease in pups was 14.9 per cent. This demonstrates that in this area there was 1 per cent greater decrease in cows than in bulls, with a result of decreasing the average harem from 40.29 in 1903 to 39.83 in 1904. The census of breeding cows for the whole island of St. Paul—using the average harem for estimation on the large rookeries where no count of pups could be made—shows 74,002 cows in 1904 as against 82,649 for 1903, a decrease of 8,647 cows, or only 10.4 per cent. As this whole census, however, involves the element of estimation noted, the percentage of decrease, obtained from its comparison with the census of the previous year, should, in my judgment, defer to the percentage obtained from an actual count only.

CAUSE OF DECREASE IN COWS.

As before shown, the diminution in pups was not caused by any insufficiency of adult male life, and that it must be laid to a lessened number of cows present. As absolutely no evidence of an epidemic or unusual death rate among cows or pups was found, the cause must be sought in the only remaining factor destructive to the herds, namely, pelagic sealing.

While I have no means of determining with accuracy what was the catch of the Canadian and Japanese sealing fleets last season and this spring, I am inclined to believe that during those periods their activity in connection with the Pribilof herd was unusually destructive. If the exact figures of the pelagic catch for the last two seasons could be obtained they would probably show an unusual mortality among seals.

FIGHTING AMONG BULLS.

During the period of my observations of the islands I have never been able to reconcile existing relations between adult bulls to the statements in the early reports of incessant and deadly fighting among them.

The reader of these reports would be led to believe that the landing of an adult bull is the occasion of desperate fighting between himself and the bulls already stationed, or those coming later; that he must rout other bulls to make place for himself, and, after having obtained this location, he must constantly repel invaders seeking to land and possess themselves of his preemption.

While seals were not present in nearly the same numbers during the period of my stay on the islands as they were in the time of the Alaska Commercial Co.'s lease, they occupied a much smaller space during my time than they did when there were thousands more present. Within this smaller area their actions must have been practically the same as they were when there was a greater number present and the space covered by them was much larger.

My observation has been that the first bull to arrive laid down on the spot where he landed and immediately went to sleep, and slept continuously for a week or more unless disturbed by man. If surprised by the latter, the bull generally retreated hastily into the water, swimming out a hundred yards from shore, and there waiting until the departure of the disturbing element, when it would return and haul up at the same spot. This occurs in the cases of all early arrivals.

While on St. George, in the spring of 1901, I noted one bull that took up his station on top of a sheet of soft ice several feet thick, formed by surf spray splashing over snow, beneath which was a table of lava rock. The bull at once went to sleep, and continued sleeping until the heat of his body had melted the ice beneath him to the solid rock, leaving him in a shallow pit, the sides of which were from 2 to 3 feet high. This shows that the bull had not moved from his original position for some days at least.

The other bulls arriving take up their positions among the bulls already there, there being generally enough space between them to allow for another without crowding or disturbance of vested rights.

As indicated before, the bulls on first arrival are usually wary and timid, and instead of looking for a fight will slip into the water when alarmed by the approach of man.

After being on shore awhile the bulls lose the timidity shown at their landing, and, while hard fighting is not a usual thing to be seen among them, a bull may be noted here and there with a cut hide, the compliments of a surly neighbor.

But even after the greater number of bulls is stationed, a new bull occasionally can haul up among them, take a favored spot, and meet with little or no opposition. The following quotation from my notes of June 9, 1900, will illustrate this fact:

> Lukanin perfectly quiet when I approached. Two bulls finning close to shore. One lands, and is savagely attacked by five bulls at once and literally thrown back into the water. He resumed his finning. The incident started a roaring here and there, being taken up by others in the distance, just as the howling of a dog at night is answered by another canine a mile away. It started 10 or 12 bulls to bluffing, but no fighting, and all was quiet in three minutes.
>
> The other bull in the water landed while I was counting. He waddled leisurely up among the other bulls and calmly took up a position in their midst. He was challenged by but one bull and met the bluff in a leisurely way without coming to blows. Shaking his mane, he settled himself—resting on his fore flippers—and gazed out at the sea. He soon starts to bluffing his nearest neighbor on his own account. He is large and fat, and evidently an accomplished beachmaster.

It can thus be seen that of these two bulls one landed without question while the other was repulsed. The latter was probably a young bull. It may be said of these young bulls, or those seeking positions on the rookeries for the first time, that they are subjected to much rougher treatment than the older bulls give each other. This is natural, for the young ones lack the courage and assurance necessary to breast up to a rival and make a bold showing, which is really half the battle between bulls. On the contrary, the younger upon being

challenged generally turns to retreat or loses his courage and lowers his guard after the other has taken a nip at him. He is then, of course, an easy victim and is severely handled before he reaches the water or fights back with the desperation of the frightened animal.

The timorous landing of a young bull on the water's edge is a signal for the bulls in that vicinity to rush at him, some even following him into the water in his hasty flight. These younger bulls usually land at one or the other ends of a rookery and travel along its rear to the portion of the rookery having the greatest number of cows, where they station themselves far enough back to be out of range of the nearest harem. If the youngster's bravery is equal to it, he will approach near enough to be set upon by the nearest bull, from which encounter he will probably retire with more than one bloody gash in his sleek coat.

Sometimes a young bull, either through fright at the approach of man or other cause, is stampeded, and seeks the water by plunging through the rookery. His coming is a signal for the bulls in his neighborhood to gather in a common cause to repel the invader. The latter is set upon by two or three bulls at once, and does not reach the water without a terrific mauling, if he is not killed outright.

It is not intended to intimate that these adult bulls pass an entire summer without friction between each other or without—in certain cases, at least—serious conflicts. It is simply desired to demonstrate that fighting is not an immediate and necessary consequence of the arrival of these bulls on the islands. While these old males sleep during the greater portion of their time before the arrival of the cows, more or less irritation occurs as the rookery space is filled up and the bulls are brought closer together. This usually finds a vent in bluffing, or approaching each other and, just beyond reach, making a feint by striking with the head and emitting several loud "coughs" in the nature of battle cries. These are either treated with unconcern by the one on the defensive or answered in kind.

Occasionally they come together, but after a bite or two at each other in which fur is pulled out, and perhaps a gash made, each retires to his position and very likely soon goes to sleep again.

A desperate battle sometimes occurs, but is distinctly the exception rather than the rule. Then the teeth are locked in the neck or fore flipper, and the animal having the advantage of superior strength or position "breasts" the other one, seeking to push him over and thus take him at a disadvantage. This sometimes results in a draw, and sometimes in the defeat of one, who probably is driven to the water line and leaves the rookery to haul up somewhere else if his wounds are not serious.

Very rarely, by reason of some special animosity, bulls keep up a fight for hours. Last summer, on Lukanin, I noted two fine bulls that were covered with wounds when I first saw them, and so exhausted and sore that moving about seemed a torture. Yet every few seconds one or the other, with a puff of rage, would make a lightning-like pass at his antagonist seeking to get another piece of flesh from him. Both had high courage, and both had fought to a standstill. One of these bulls was so badly injured that, while he did not quit the position he held on the rookery, it was not until a month afterwards that his wounds allowed him any freedom of movement.

While the above incident is extreme as representing the fighting between bulls, yet at one time or another during the summer probably every bull on the rookeries has some disagreement with his neighbor that leaves its mark, either superficial or otherwise, on his hide.

The cows of course are the disturbing element on the rookeries, and the height of the breeding season shows the greatest amount of fighting among the males.

PRESENCE OF YOUNG BULLS APPARENT.

Among the bulls regularly stationed on the rookeries there was a fair proportion of young adult males. It was my purpose to make a canvass of the rookeries for the express purpose of judging the age of each bull present, but after attempting it I was obliged to give it up because of the amount of conjecture involved in classifying middle-aged bulls.

From my examination, however, I can say with assurance that all bulls stationed were vigorous and virile. Probably 4 per cent of them showed signs of being advanced in years, but even these had harems and were as assiduous in discharging their duties as heads of families as any others. The greatest portion of the bulls were of middle age, in the lusty prime of their maturity. Young bulls were present at all times—on the rookeries with cows, back of the rookeries, waiting for cows, and on the bachelors' hauling grounds where they rest after futile attempts to secure a station on a rookery. The bulls present last summer were of the best quality, and as a class as good as could be found on the rookeries five years ago when the idle bulls present made it perilous to count the seals.

YEARLINGS IN DRIVES.

Special attention was paid by me to the presence of yearlings in drives. The first seen was on June 28 in a drive from Zapadni. It was so small that it was killed to determine its weight. It was a male and weighed only 26¼ pounds. It, undoubtedly, was a small example of its class. It was saved for a specimen, and the weight of its skin could not be taken.

On July 1 there were 3 yearling seals in the drives at Northeast Point. One of them, a typical specimen, was knocked down at my direction to ascertain the weight of the skin. It was found to be a female. The carcass before sticking weighed 34 pounds, and the skin taken off hurriedly, with considerable loose blubber adhering, weighed 4¼ pounds. The removal of this loose blubber left the skin weighing only 3⅛ pounds.

While no further effort was made to determine the weight of yearling skins, this instance shows that the skins of this class of animals are far below the limit of weight now prescribed by the department, and are too small to have appeared in the company's catch at any time, except by an accident in clubbing.

On July 5, at Zapadni, 5 yearlings appeared in the drive. On July 25, at Zapadni, several yearlings were noted while killing. As the season reached its close more of these yearlings were noted, but it was not possible to enumerate them, in addition to segregating the 2-year-

olds, branded seals, and half bulls. On the last drive made, on August 9, for food, a larger number of these yearlings was seen than at any time heretofore, and among them was a sprinkling of very small cows, undoubtedly yearlings also.

These young animals appeared in such small numbers, however, during the killing season, with the exception of the last few drives, that the company's catch would have been augmented but slightly had all been killed.

ABSENCE OF COWS IN DRIVES.

The comparatively few cows in the drives this year was a matter of note by myself and Agent Judge. On the last drive of the season, August 9, 25 cows were seen. On the drive made on August 10, 1903, 179 cows were counted. During the preceding drives this season, the cows found in the drives of bachelors were unusually few.

Why this was the case I am unable to state definitely, but my belief is that the bachelors, this year, hauled so far apart from the cows that few of the latter were picked up when the drives were started.

PELAGIC SEALING AND PATROL.

The patrol this summer by the revenue cutter *McCulloch* has been as thorough as it was possible to be made with one vessel. During the patrolling season the cutter called a number of times at the island and a number of times besides was sighted cruising. Capt. Rodgers, of the *McCulloch*, is entitled to his full measure of commendation for the vigorous manner in which the patrol was maintained.

Only one instance of pelagic sealing came under our notice on St. Paul this summer. On August 13, while the company's vessel was about to leave the village for Northeast Point to ship the skins in salt there, a telephone message was received from the watchmen at Northeast Point reporting the presence of a schooner there, about half a mile from shore. Mr. Judge at once went on board the company's vessel, taking with him a revenue flag, which he requested the captain of the *Kruger* to hoist and pursue the marauder. The company's agent, Mr. Redpath, however, refused to take this action, on the ground that it would result in a forfeiture of the insurance on the vessel. Mr. Judge made the trip to the point on the *Kruger*, and, on arriving there, could barely make out the schooner with glasses, sailing to the northeastward. A patrol of the rookery failed to show any evidence of landing.

That evening the cutter *McCulloch* anchored on the east side. As the natives were all on board the *Kruger*, or in boats landing her cargo on the west side, I could not take a boat out. I therefore hoisted code signals to inform the cutter of the schooner's approach that morning. I was unable to attract the attention of the cutter, however, for nearly an hour, during which time I fired a number of shots from a rifle to call attention to the signals. When I finally did get an answer it was nearly dark, and after I had hoisted my second set the officers of the cutter replied that my flags could not be made out.

The next morning, after boarding the *Kruger* several miles from the island and learning from her of the schooner's proximity, the cutter

steamed to the northward, presumably in search of the marauder. I learn that no schooner was encountered, and that the cutter's officers were inclined to doubt the fact that a sealing vessel was present.

On September 16 I patrolled Ketovi and Lukanin rookeries, looking for a dead seal with a skin that might be used in experiments to arrive at a suitable clipping device for marking bachelors. I found no dead adult seals. I counted, however, on Ketovi alone 12 pups dead from starvation, each being emaciated to the last degree and exhibiting the tarry fæces incident to death from that cause. I could see also among the live pups a number of starvelings. On the north end of Ketovi I found five starving pups together in a little pod back from the beach. They were all lean and wasted, but particularly vicious when handled. Two of them, more vigorous than the others, rushed for the water. The others remained and, soon becoming oblivious to our presence, sat with half-closed eyes, their noses held high and their heads slowly moving from side to side. One of them, hardly able to move, was dispatched at my direction and the skin preserved.

I found the organs in this animal to be normal, except that the lungs were partially congested. The stomach and intestines were empty, the lower intestine only containing a highly offensive matter, nearly black in color. The carcass was without fat.

These pups die among the loose rocks of the rookery and can be found only on close search. The finding of 12 dead and at least as many starving on one rookery in my hasty examination would indicate that the mortality from pelagic sealing this summer has been quite large and that a correspondingly large death rate among pups from starvation this fall will be encountered.

EXPERIMENTS IN WEIGHTS OF SALTED SKINS.

In connection with the weighing of individual skins on the killing field, it was thought wise to determine whether or not skins gained or lost weight after being salted. Should any discrepancy of this kind occur, the weights of these skins in London would not coincide with those taken on the islands.

On July 17, 107 skins taken at Tolstoi were weighed individually, and, after being immersed in salt water to keep them moist during the journey from the field to the salt house, were salted. Their aggregate weight on the field before wetting was 705 pounds. On July 23 they were taken out of salt and reweighed, when their aggregate weight was 759½ pounds, a gain of 54½ pounds on 107 skins, or ½ pound a skin. As the salt was thoroughly shaken off these skins, the accretion of water from dipping them in the lagoon may be represented by the gain in weight.

On July 26 I weighed 100 skins, nearly dry, on a platform scales at the salt house, finding them to weigh 644¼ pounds. They were then salted. On July 30 they were hauled out of salt and reweighed, when their combined weight was 643¼ pounds, a loss of 1 pound on 100 skins. These may be taken as typical to show the effect of salt and water upon skins. I was not able to experiment with perfectly dry skins after the date mentioned, but I believe the latter will show a slight loss of weight after being in salt for a period.

BRANDING MACHINES.

The clipping machine, sent to this island to be used for marking the bachelor seals reserved for breeding, arrived here by the *Thetis* on July 27, a month after the quota of seals to be branded on this island was obtained. I was not able to test it until July 30, when a drive was made from the reef—in a pouring rain. The seals rejected from this drive were herded together, and, after the killing was over and the skins weighed, several young bachelors were snared from the band of rejects and brought up to be clipped.

The clipping machine, I regret to state, was found to be not a success on wet seals. The fur of the animal was thoroughly moist and laid down flat on the seal's body. When the clipper was applied it was able to take off only a few stray hairs, leaving no mark whatever of its use. After being tried at varying rates of speed it was jammed down hard into the animal's fur, so that the teeth of the clipper could be filled. The result was to cramp the plates, breaking off four teeth from the lower plate and pulling out a line of hair and fur the width of the clipper blade.

After testing it in every possible manner it was proved to be of no value in marking wet seals.

To determine its capabilities under more favorable conditions, on September 16 I drove up a few dry seals on Zoltoi and used the clipper on them. The result was little, if any, better than that of the former trial.

On the first animal secured I worked four minutes before I could get off of its head enough hair and fur to make a mark faintly perceptible to a "clubber." This was not clipped off regularly, as would be done in the case of a horse or a dog, but was gouged out in small bunches by the corner of the clipper, after it had cramped on the mass of fur.

At the end of the four minutes, with only an indistinct mark made, I found that the seal under experiment was nearly strangled from being held down by the bar of wood laid across its neck to keep its head steady. It was released at once, and, after about two minutes of gasping, recovered and made its way to the water, apparently none the worse for being choked. Had I prolonged the experiment, however, sufficiently to have made a satisfactory mark on its head—if even it were possible to make a satisfactory mark at all—the seal would have been dead from strangulation.

Another seal was then secured and held down just long enough to prevent its being choked into insensibility. In that time I was not able to get off enough fur to make any perceptible mark on its head.

These trials were sufficient to determine, to my mind, the fact that the methods used in clipping domestic animals having hair of ordinary thickness are of no value when used on the thick fur and hair of the fur seal.

I learned recently that during the time of the Alaska Commercial Co.'s lease, when pups were killed for food and pup skins were quite common on the islands, a number of attempts were made to dress pup skins by clipping off the long hair with ordinary hair clippers worked by hand. I understand that none of these attempts were successful, and that every pair of clippers used was wrecked by having its teeth broken off while they were clogged in the thick fur.

The hair and fur of the seal are exceptionally close and thick and seem to form a mass between the thin teeth of the clippers, which the latter are not strong enough to cut through. To make the machine a success it will be necessary to have constructed specially made clippers with teeth short and thick on both upper and lower plates.

In order that the department, if it wishes, may carry the experiment further, I send with this mail an air-dried pup skin, which, it is suggested, might be sent to the manufacturers of the clipping machine with a request for information whether they have in stock or can construct a set of plates for clippers that will cut through both the hair and fur on the skin submitted. I feel sure that clippers can be made to meet the requirements of this case.

It must be remembered that the skin on the live seal is not rigid, such as is the dried specimen submitted, and that on the live animal the skin will pull and wrinkle before the clippers, making it difficult for them to get a satisfactory "bite" on the hair.

CLIPPING SEALS ON ST. GEORGE.

On St. George this summer, finding that wet seals could not be branded with a hot iron, a couple of ordinary sheep shears that were on the station were used on the wet fur to good advantage. The irons afterwards were discarded and the sheep shears used to mark the remainder of the quota on St. George. Messrs. Clark and Chichester both speak with favor concerning their use.

PROTESTS FROM THE COMPANY.

While the North American Commercial Co. complied in every particular this summer with the regulations of the department, I received from its officers several protests against the department's action in restricting the catch of the company.

Upon receipt of your letter of May 12 last, prescribing a 5½-pound limit on 2-year-old skins, I notified Mr. Taylor, the president of the company, of the contents of the letter. He at once entered a vigorous protest. Upon my informing him that I had no option in the matter, he appealed directly to the department, and held the company's vessel in Sausalito for half a day until the receipt of the department's reply. With that matter, however, you are familiar.

Upon arrival at the islands, while discussing the coming season's work with Mr. Redpath, the company's general agent, I mentioned the prohibition against the killing of 4-year-olds, and stated that, to give effect to this prohibition, I would place a limit on large skins of from 8½ to 9 pounds. Mr. Redpath at once expressed surprise at the existence of this prohibition and entered a vigorous protest against any interference with the killing of 4-year-olds. He produced a copy of the department's instructions to me and quoted from the clause relating to the restriction of killing in support of his argument.

The exact language of that portion of the instructions is as follows: "No seals shall be taken that are over 4 years of age."

Mr. Redpath claimed that a seal could not be over 4 years old without being at least 5 years of age; that the phraseology of the instructions could have but one meaning, which was to prohibit the killing of seals 5 years old and over and to allow the killing of 4-year-

olds. He insisted, therefore, that my injunction against killing 4-year-olds was beyond the scope of the department's instructions, and therefore arbitrary and unjustifiable.

I replied that, while there might be a seeming ambiguity in the language of the instructions on this point, I was perfectly convinced of the intention of the department to prevent the killing of 4-year-olds. I based this conviction on a knowledge of the department's policy outlined last winter before the Committee on Ways and Means. In fact, I had in my possession a letter from yourself, stating that it was the intention of the department to "prohibit the killing of 4-year-olds." I was sure, therefore, that the restriction was not on my personal responsibility, and therefore arbitrary and unjustifiable, but in strict accord with the wish of the department.

I stated, further, that the animals mentioned in the instructions as "seals over 4 years of age" were simply animals that had reached and passed the 4-year point, and were, therefore, "over" that age. I pointed out to him that a person who had, for instance, reached his twenty-eighth birthday would be "over" that age the number of succeeding days he lived following that birthday until he reached his twenty-ninth.

It was also plain, by inference, that 4-year-olds were to be exempted from killing by the fact that it would be useless to save 2 and 3 year olds by branding, only to have them killed when they returned to the islands as 4-year-olds.

Mr. Redpath replied that he was convinced that I was making a wrong interpretation of the department's instructions, and that he considered such action arbitrary and highly injurious to the interests of the company. I offered to reduce the matter to writing in the form of a letter to him, to which he could make a formal protest to the department, if he so desired, but he declined, and the argument closed.

In this connection I desire to request, if it is the wish of the department to prohibit the killing of 4-year-old males, as I understand it is, and should be, that a maximum limit of 8½ pounds be placed on the skins to be taken hereafter. This, in my judgment, includes all, or nearly all, the 3-year-olds, but leaves the 4-year-olds practically untouched.

VITAL STATISTICS OF NATIVE POPULATION.

The general health of the native population during the year ended June 30, 1904, has been good. On St. Paul 4 deaths and 7 births occurred during that period; on St. George 3 deaths and 6 births occurred.

On June 30, 1904, on St. Paul there were 161 natives actually resident, 80 males and 81 females, an increase of 2 over the preceding year. On St. George, on the same date, there were 95 actual residents, 48 males and 47 females, an increase of 3 during the year.

The native population on the two islands on June 30, 1904, was 256, composed of 128 males and 128 females.

DIVISION OF NATIVES' EARNINGS.

On St. Paul, $5,566 was received by the natives at the close of the season of 1904 as their compensation for securing 11,132 sealskins (the number shipped from that island), at 50 cents each. Credits amounting to this sum were divided among them according to their classifications as sealers, and will be expended for their maintenance

on orders issued by the Government agent. The division of their earnings will be found appended as an exhibit hereto.

On St. George, $998 was earned by the natives for taking 1,996 sealskins for the North American Commercial Co. during the past season, and $2,370 for taking 471 blue-fox skins, at $5 a skin, and 15 white-fox skins, at $1 a skin, their total earnings from these sources, as above stated, being $3,368. This amount has been divided according to the statements of division furnished by Agent Clark, hereto appended also as exhibit.

APPORTIONMENT OF GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION.

The appropriation of $19,500, made by the Government for the support of the seal-island natives, after deducting $3,500 to pay for coal to be delivered on the islands in the spring of 1905, was apportioned between the two islands by allowing St. Paul $9,750 and St. George $6,250. This will be disbursed during the coming winter and spring on orders by the Government agents for food, fuel, and clothing, and in extreme cases for other necessaries of life.

DEPORTATION FROM ISLANDS.

Upon my arrival at St. Paul this spring I was furnished by Agent Chichester with information of an attempt on his life by Alexander Melovidoff, a native of that island, while the latter was resisting arrest by Mr. Chichester for having committed an alleged assault with a knife upon another native. I immediately called the native in question, with the witnesses, to the Government house and held a hearing.

It was developed in the examination that on the night of February 22, 1904, Mr. Chichester was called upon to arrest Alexander Melovidoff for an alleged assault with a knife on Jacob Kochutin. After finding his man Mr. Chichester, with the assistance of a native, put him in jail, not without a struggle. The prisoner then broke out of the jail and went at once to his home, where he loaded his double-barreled shotgun and placed himself in a dark corner where he could command the door, threatening to shoot Mr. Chichester when the latter should come to rearrest him. The gun, however, was wrested from Melovidoff by his wife and another woman after a desperate struggle, and when Mr. Chichester appeared he was able to handcuff the prisoner and place him in jail.

The showing made at the hearing was such that I felt it fitting to order Melovidoff to leave the islands, which he did on the company's vessel *Kruger*, going to Unalaska.

COMPANY'S EXPENDITURE UNDER LEASE.

Complying with that portion of department's instructions to me which directs me to ascertain from the company and report the amounts of its expenditures for the support of widows and orphans, aged and infirm on the islands, for maintenance of schools, houses of worship, physicians and medical supplies, and native dwellings, under the appropriate provisions of its contract with the Government, I made the request, while in San Francisco, of Mr. Taylor, the president of the company, for suitable instructions to the company's agents on the islands to furnish me with the statistics desired. He agreed to do so.

On August 10 I requested this information of Mr. Redpath, and on August 12 received a letter from him inclosing a statement of expenditures for the items in question, with a verbal statement that the amounts were expended during the company's fiscal year—ending May 31—and that it was not feasible, in the short time given, to prepare the statement to cover the fiscal year ending June 30. A request is made in the letter of Mr. Redpath that the information therein given be considered confidential.

Maj. Clark obtained also and forwarded to me a statement of similar expenditures on St. George.

A summary of these expenditures, as furnished me, follows:

St. Paul—year ended May 31, 1904:	
For widows and orphans	$1,943.35
For physicians and medical supplies	2,373.86
For repairs to native dwellings	49.42
For teachers and school supplies	2,179.85
Total	6,546.48
St. George—year ended June 30, 1904:	
For widows and orphans	946.98
For physicians and medical supplies	1,767.58
For repairs to native dwellings	5.00
For teachers and school supplies	1,340.13
Total	4,059.69

As can be seen, the statement for St. George covers the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904. The number of indigents supported by the company on St. Paul, as stated in the company's communication, is 8 widows, 2 spinsters, and 20 orphans. Of the 20 orphans, 10 have been adopted into families of sealers and receive only clothing from the company. On St. George, according to the statement of Agent Clark, the average number of persons supported by the company under this clause of its contract is 13.

The company's statement of these expenditures on St. Paul is attached as an exhibit. The communications received from Agent Clark on the subject are submitted also.

Attention is called to the fact that on St. Paul a charge is made of $13 a week each for board of physician and school-teacher, while on St. George a charge of only $7 a week each for these employees is made. The reason for this difference in these charges is not known.

The Russian Church edifices on these islands were, I understand, built by funds contributed by the natives and have never been an item of expense to the company.

FOXES.

On St. George, during the last winter, 486 blue foxes and 15 white foxes were taken in house and box traps. Agent Clark reports that the apparent condition of the fox herd on that island is favorable.

It will be observed that while $2,370 was received on St. George for taking fox skins only $998 was earned by those natives for taking seals. These figures form a striking commentary on the value of preserving and cultivating the fox herd on St. George, and, as well, on the minor part played by the seal herd in furnishing subsistence to the natives of that island.

On St. Paul, last winter, the natives were allowed to trap foxes for one week, during which they were able to take only 15 blue and 5

white foxes. The trapping party at Northeast Point during that week caught only one fox, a white one.

The foxes sent from the Semedi Islands at the instance of Mr. Byron Andrews, in exchange for an equal number sent from St. George, arrived at Dutch Harbor just after the company's vessel left for the islands on her second spring trip. They were required to wait at Dutch Harbor, therefore, nearly a month, or until the arrival of the company's vessel from San Francisco, on her last trip, during which time all but five died. Three of these died on the vessel before reaching St. Paul, and the remaining two were set at liberty on that island. What proportion of the St. George foxes survived the journey to the Semedis is not known, but the transaction, I am sure, was a losing one for the Pribilofs.

SEALS FOR BROOKLYN MUSEUM.

In our visits to the various rookeries on the island, Mr. Judge and I picked up, from time to time during the summer, such dead seals as we found having skins suitable for museum purposes, and brought them to the village, to be sent to the museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, under the permission contained in your letter of May 12 last. In the height of the season's work no attention was paid to the number of carcasses thus brought in, but at the end of the season I was informed by the native making the specimens that he had 10 skins in salt and ready for shipment. The list he furnished me was as follows: One large bull, two half bulls, two young males, two adult females, three black pups.

The large bull and one of the half bulls died of exhaustion in drives made from the Reef and Northeast Point, respectively. The other half bull was found dead on the tundra several days after a drive from Tolstoi. The two young males were found dead by us on Ketovi while we were counting pups on that rookery. Both had their skulls crushed. While the idea seems improbable, the only explanation of their presence to be arrived at was that a landing had been made on the rookery by some outsiders and these seals killed by them. An undeveloped fetus, probably 8 months old, was found near the same place also with its skull crushed. These facts were at once reported to the captain of the *McCulloch*, then lying at anchor off the island. The three black pups, dead from natural causes, were also found on this occasion. One of the cows was found on Zapadni Reef by Mr. Judge, having died in giving birth to her pup, as evidenced by the uterus turned inside out and protruding. Another cow, dead from the same cause and exhibiting the same evidence of death, was found on July 29, on Tolstoi Cliffs, while we were counting pups.

All of these skins, with the exception of the black pups, were offered to the agent of the company, Mr. Redpath, who refused to accept them as part of the company's quota.

This list, as will be noted, was four in excess of the number requested and stated in your letter.

While I had no intention of exceeding the number called for and authorized, we had unwittingly collected this number and the native had performed service in preparing them. It would have been useless to throw them away, neither did I desire to do so, and pay for the labor out of my own funds. To clear up the matter, the whole collec-

tion was packed in a barrel and shipped to the museum, the company advancing the charges of the native for his labor. I trust my action will be approved.

EVIDENCE OF EPIDEMIC AMONG FOXES.

In my supplementary report on foxes, made last winter, I stated it as my opinion that an epidemic of some nature occurred among the foxes on St. Paul and St. George, during the spring of 1903, from the effects of which a number died. I had no evidence to support my belief save an unusual death rate. I was unable to ascribe the cause to starvation, a theory advanced by others on the islands, as on St. Paul a quantity of salt salmon was freshened and thrown out for them, but was not eaten.

I find recently, however, in the Report on Introduction of Domestic Reindeer into Alaska, 1903, page 57, a statement in the report from Dr. H. R. Marsh, of the Point Barrow reindeer station, that a sickness called "mullo-kully," or crazy, existed among all animals there during the period when the large death rate was noted among foxes on the Pribilof Islands. The report states that "dogs died by scores. * * * People out trapping walked around knocking sick foxes on the head."

Taken in connection with the loss of so many foxes on the islands, some of which on St. Paul exhibited symptoms of mania, as I noted at the time, this quotation would seem to go toward proving that a sickness or epidemic of some character affected animals in Alaska during the winter of 1902–3, and that it had a specially mortal effect on the foxes on the Pribilof Islands.

The following list of exhibits attached to this report for further reference is appended:

No. 1. Certificate of shipment of skins, St. Paul.
No. 2. Annual statement, fur seals killed, St. Paul.
No. 3. Annual statement, fur seals killed, St. George.
No. 4. Weights of sealskins, St. Paul.
No. 5. Statistics of killings, St. Paul.
No. 6. Census of breeding seals, St. Paul.
No. 7. Counts of rookeries, St. Paul.
No. 8. Division of natives' earnings, St. Paul.
No. 9. Census of native inhabitants, St. Paul.
No. 10. Statement expenditures of North American Commercial Co., for natives, St. Paul.
No. 11. Report of Assistant Agent Chichester, St. Paul.
No. 12. Certificate of shipment of skins, St. George.
No. 13. Agent Clark's report on year's business, St. George.
No. 14. Agent Clark's report on branding bachelors, St. George.
No. 15. Agent Clark's report on company's expenditures, St. George.
No. 16. Weights of sealskins, St. George.
No. 17. Rookery counts, St. George.
No. 18. Count of pups, St. George.
No. 19. Foxing memoranda, St. George.
No. 20. Native census, St. George.
No. 21. Seal division, St. George.
No. 22. Fox division, St. George.
No. 23. Report of food killings, St. George.
No. 24. Memoranda of expenditures, St. George.
No. 25. School report, St. George.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

EXHIBIT No. 1.

CERTIFICATE OF SHIPMENT OF SKINS, ST. PAUL.

Division Special Agents.
Form 17.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 14, 1904.

This is to certify that 11,132 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *W. H. Kruger*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

K. A. AHLIN,
Master, Steamer W. H. Kruger.

EXHIBIT NO. 2.

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ended August 10, 1904.

Date.	Rookeries.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.					Number of seals killed by lessees for skins.					Aggregates.		
		Large young seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Skins rejected.		Accepted, prime.	Rejected.			Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
					Undersize.	Cut.		Undersize.	Cut.	For other reasons.				
1903.														
Aug. 20	On hand from previous seasons						303		9		312	303	9	312
	Killed in drives by Government agents:													
Oct. 20	Reef	88	88	87		1						87	1	88
26	English Bay	153	153	153								153		153
Nov. 2	Reef	79	79	76		3						76	3	79
9	Southwest Bay	27	27	26		1						26	1	27
10	Northeast Point	487	487	485		2						485	2	487
16	Tolstoi	170	170	165		5						165	5	170
19	Northeast Point	245	245	245								245		245
27	Northeast Point	317	317	315		2						315	2	317
Dec. 7	Tolstoi	287	287	282	4	1						282	5	287
1904.														
May 5	Sea Lion Rock	77	77	76		1						76	1	77
24	Sea Lion Rock	135	135	130		5						130	5	135
June 4	Sea Lion Rock	179	179	178		1						178	1	179
	Killed in drives by company:													
10	Tolstoi						71				71	71		71
15	Tolstoi						48				48	48		48
20	Reef						247				247	247		247
21	Tolstoi (drive for branding)	33	33	33								33		33
25	Northeast Point (drive for branding)	141	141	140		[1] 1						140	1	141
26	Polovina						38				38	38		38
25	Watchmen's food skins during winter, Northeast Point	28	28	28								28		28
27	Reef						364		1	[1] 1	366	364	2	366
29	Zapadni						410		3	[1] 1	414	410	4	414
July 1	Northeast Point						477				477	477		477
2	Tolstoi						87			[1] 2	89	87	2	89
4	Reef						396			[1] 4	400	396	4	400

5	Zapadni						383		1	[1] 2	386	383	3	386
7	Northeast Point						625	2	2	[1] 2	621	615	6	621
8	Tolstoi						122		1	[1] 1	124	122	2	124
9	Reef						270				270	270		270
11	Northeast Point						281				281	281		281
14	Zapadni						371		1	[1] 3	375	371	4	375
15	Reef						349				349	349		349
16	Northeast Point						588				588	588		588
18	Tolstoi						107				107	107		107
19	Reef and Gorbatch						178		2		180	178	2	180
20	Zapadni						254		2	[1] 2	258	254	4	258
22	Northeast Point						419		2	[1] 2	423	419	4	423
23	Tolstoi						50				50	50		50
25	Zapadni						293		3	[1] 1	297	293	4	297
26	Reef and Gorbatch						383		2	[1] 2	387	383	4	387
27	Northeast Point						482		1		483	482	1	483
27	Polovina						17				17	17		17
28	Tolstoi						61				61	61		61
29	Zapadni						300		1		301	300	1	301
30	Reef and Gorbatch						240		4	[1] 1	245	240	5	245
31	Northeast Point						426				426	426		426
	Killed for food by Government agent:													
Aug. 9	Reef and Gorbatch	140	140	140								140		140
	Total	2,586	2,586	2,559	4	23	8,630	2	35	24	8,691	11,189	88	11,277

[1] Bitten.

SUMMARY.

Total number of skins on hand end of season 1904	11,277
Deduct number left over from previous seasons	312
Killed during season of 1904	10,965
Killed by Government agents	2,586
Killed by company	8,379

EXHIBIT No. 3.

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. George Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1904.

Date.	Rookeries.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.		Number of seals killed by lessees for skins (accepted).	Total number of seals killed.
		Large young seals.	Skins accepted by lessees.		
1903.					
Aug. 31	Miscellaneous, left over	1	1	.....	1
Oct. 19	Staraya Artel	40	40	.....	40
20	North	68	68	.....	68
21	Zapadni watchmen	2	2	.....	2
22	East	26	26	.....	26
24	Zapadni	6	6	.....	6
26	Staraya Artel	36	36	.....	36
29	North	82	82	.....	82
31	East	61	61	.....	61
Nov. 2	Staraya Artel	2	2	.....	2
4	Zapadni watchmen	2	2	.....	2
5	North	54	54	.....	54
8	Zapadni	22	22	.....	22
9	East	11	11	.....	11
11	Staraya Artel	42	42	.....	42
11	Zapadni watchmen	2	2	.....	2
16	.....do	2	2	.....	2
17	East and North	13	13	.....	13
22	North	4	4	.....	4
25	East	20	20	.....	20
1904.					
May 31	Zapadni watchmen	2	2	.....	2
June 1	Staraya Artel	.....	.....	26	26
7	.....do	.....	.....	5	5
11	Zapadni watchmen	2	2	.....	2
11	Staraya Artel and East	.....	.....	22	22
16	Staraya Artel and North	.....	.....	29	29
21	Zapadni	.....	.....	15	15
23	North, East, and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	116	116
28	.....do	.....	.....	209	209
30	Zapadni	.....	.....	92	92
July 2	North, East, and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	144	144
6	.....do	.....	.....	46	46
7	Zapadni	.....	.....	70	70
9	North, East, and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	66	66
13	.....do	.....	.....	73	73
14	Zapadni	.....	.....	18	18
16	North, East, and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	129	129
20	.....do	.....	.....	111	111
21	Zapadni	.....	.....	25	25
23	North, East, and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	99	99
26	.....do	.....	.....	93	93
28	Zapadni	.....	.....	23	23
30	North, East, and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	82	82
31	Zapadni	.....	.....	5	5
		500	500	1,498	1,998
	Deduct 2 skins (see note)	2	2	.....	2
	Total	498	498	1,498	1,996

SUMMARY.

Number on hand at end of season	1,996
Deduct left from previous season	1
Killed during season of 1904	1,995
Killed for natives' food by Government agents	498
Killed by company	1,497

NOTE.—A discrepancy of two skins was found this spring between the North American Commercial Co.'s record of skins taken and those recorded by me and duly receipted for. The acting company agent claimed that he had by mistake given duplicate receipts on November 4, 1903, for two skins taken by watchmen at Zapadni. A recount of all the skins in salt was made on May 26, 1904, when only 494 skins were found, as against 496 by this record and the receipts. In view of all the facts I think there was an error, as claimed and admitted by the company, and will deduct two skins accordingly.—EZRA W. CLARK, assistant agent.

Exhibit No. 4.

Weights of sealskins taken on St. Paul Island during the sealing season ending August 1, 1904.

[Weights in pounds and quarters of pounds.]

Date.	Rookeries.	4	4¼	4½	4¾	5	5¼	5½	5¾	6	6¼	6½
1904.												
June 10	Tolstoi					1		4	4	7	7	6
15	....do							2	2	2		2
20	Reef							36	20	22	20	21
20	Road skins		2	1		3		1		3		
21	Tolstoi									2	1	
25	Northeast Point			2	8	9	9	19	22	23	9	8
26	Polovina						1	2	4	1	2	4
27	Reef					2	11	21	32	45	33	40
29	Zapadni		1	1	5	12	14	49	52	44	39	44
July 1	Northeast Point			1	3	14	11	38	48	85	38	55
2	Tolstoi		1	1	1	6	5	7	6	10	8	10
4	Reef	4		5	5	21	9	58	41	45	28	48
5	Zapadni					7	10	30	30	41	33	48
7	Northeast Point			2	7	24	19	70	70	89	66	66
8	Tolstoi				5	6	3	16	7	20	10	17
9	Reef			2	3	10	10	30	30	26	16	28
11	Northeast Point				1	1	4	15	19	26	32	24
14	Zapadni	1	2		10	20	11	34	44	32	38	46
15	Reef			3	5	9	12	34	28	46	37	33
16	Northeast Point				4	24	32	55	43	54	48	52
18	Tolstoi					4	1	11	12	11	15	7
19	Reef			2	2	6	14	17	18	20	21	20
20	Zapadni			1		2	1	21	15	17	20	36
22	Northeast Point				1	2	10	21	16	34	38	48
23	Tolstoi							1	1	3	3	6
25	Zapadni			1	2	12	12	35	25	38	30	31
26	Reef and Gorbatch			2	7	14	16	26	28	50	19	50
27	Northeast Point			1		3	14	33	29	45	41	64
27	Polovina								1	2		2
28	Tolstoi					1	2	5	4	7	4	5
29	Zapadni					4	20	17	39	34	27	39
30	Reef			1		3	8	15	7	13	12	41
31	Northeast Point			6	3	13	27	53	44	54	59	48
	Total	5	6	32	72	233	286	776	741	951	754	949

Date.	Rookeries.	6¾	7	7¼	7½	7¾	8	8¼	8½	8¾	9
1904.											
June 10	Tolstoi	6	4	4	3	3	6	2		2	3
15	....do	6	4	2	5	5	6	1	1	1	1
20	Reef	15	17	14	15	9	16	6	5	3	4
20	Road skins	1									
21	Tolstoi	1	4	5	3		3	2	2	2	2
25	Northeast Point	10	5	5		4	4	2	1		
26	Polovina	3	4	7	3	2	2		1	2	
27	Reef	27	26	21	16	10	16	9	9	7	6
29	Zapadni	35	31	20	12	9	10	6	5	3	5
July 1	Northeast Point	41	39	22	24	13	16	6	4	5	7
2	Tolstoi	5	7	4	2	3	4	3	2		1
4	Reef	27	29	16	13	12	10	2	9	5	2
5	Zapadni	40	43	22	16	12	18	2	9	7	5
7	Northeast Point	49	45	21	27	16	16	3	15	1	3
8	Tolstoi	7	8	5	3	4	3	1	2		1
9	Reef	22	19	14	14	14	10	2		6	4
11	Northeast Point	41	34	25	20	6	18	6		4	1
14	Zapadni	30	20	27	16	15	8	8	2	2	2
15	Reef	32	20	24	21	12	8	9	3	1	
16	Northeast Point	55	47	41	38	29	22	11	5	3	5
18	Tolstoi	11	8	6	5	3	4	3	2		1
19	Reef	16	12	8	5	4	4	1	2		1
20	Zapadni	18	20	20	22	10	12	9	4	1	1
22	Northeast Point	46	40	36	36	16	25	11	6	4	7
23	Tolstoi	4	3	5	5	4	3	3	2	3	2
25	Zapadni	32	25	19	14	2	11	4	1	2	
26	Reef and Gorbatch	33	36	23	25	10	14	9	6	6	2
27	Northeast Point	40	55	39	35	21	21	11	8	7	5
27	Polovina	1	2	1	1		3		1		2
28	Tolstoi	4	7	4	2	3	6	1	2	1	2
29	Zapadni	23	22	21	19	7	5	4	10		1
30	Reef	23	30	17	16	12	11	6	6	3	3
31	Northeast Point	27	31	14	19	10	3	4	5	1	1
	Total	731	697	512	455	280	318	147	130	82	80

Weights of sealskins taken on St. Paul Island during the sealing season ending August 1, 1904—Continued.

Date.	Rookeries.	9¼	9½	9¾	10	10¼	10½	10¾	11	11¼	11½
1904.											
June 10	Tolstoi	2			3	1	1		2		
15	do	1	2	1			1	2	1		
20	Reef	1	1			1			2		
21	Tolstoi	2	1	1	2						
25	Northeast Point	1			1	1	1				
27	Reef	3	2		1						1
29	Zapadni		3		3	2	1	1			
July 1	Northeast Point	4	1	2			2				
2	Tolstoi	1									
4	Reef	5		2	1						
5	Zapadni	2	3	1	2		1		1		
7	Northeast Point	2	1								1
8	Tolstoi	1									
9	Reef	2		1			1				
11	Northeast Point	2			1						
14	Zapadni	1									
15	Reef	1	2								
16	Northeast Point	7	3	1	2		2		1		
18	Tolstoi	3									
19	Reef		1								
20	Zapadni	1	1				1				
22	Northeast Point	2	4	1	7	2	1	1			
23	Tolstoi	1									
25	Zapadni		2								
26	Reef and Gorbatch	1	2	2	2		1		1		
27	Northeast Point	4	1	1		1					
27	Polovina			1							
28	Tolstoi			1							
29	Zapadni	1	2								
30	Reef	2	3	4		2	1		1		
	Total	53	35	19	25	10	14	4	9		2

Exhibit No. 5.

Statistics of killings, St. Paul Island, 1904.

Date.	Rookeries.	Animals killed.	Dismissed.		Branded.		Per cent killed.
			Large.	Small.	2 years.	3 years.	
1904.							
June 10	Tolstoi	71	14	4			79
15	do	48	9	4			78
20	Reef	247	45	8	92	41	57
21	Tolstoi	33	20	3		1	57
25	Northeast Point	141	28	53	18	10	56
26	Polovina	38	24	15		3	47
27	Reef	366	67	100	69	30	58
29	Zapadni	414	11	110	57	28	66
July 1	Northeast Point	477	34	204	194	90	47
2	Tolstoi	89	34	28	3	1	57
4	Reef	400	9	147	33	22	65
5	Zapadni	386	18	194	36	11	59
7	Northeast Point	621	8	245	61	38	64
8	Tolstoi	124	14	70	11	6	55
9	Reef	270	13	66	34	8	69
11	Northeast Point	281	7	164	39	13	55
14	Zapadni	375	13	154	52	23	50
15	Reef	349	18	135	50	15	61
16	Northeast Point	588	10	271	88	43	58
18	Tolstoi	107	12	18	14	8	61
19	Reef and Gorbatch	180		43	11	1	76
20	Zapadni	258	5	185	23	5	54
22	Northeast Point	423	29	442	72	20	42
23	Tolstoi	50	4	17	6		64
25	Zapadni	297	25	221	48	14	49
26	Reef and Gorbatch	387	42	392	60	20	42
27	Northeast Point	483	35	559	85	44	40
27	Polovina	17	11			1	58
28	Tolstoi	61	16	13	5	4	61
29	Zapadni	301	25	249	49	26	46
30	Reef and Gorbatch	245	14	133	37	18	54
31	Northeast Point	426	22	245	66	20	55
Aug. 9	Reef and Gorbatch	140	5	302	7	4	30
	Total	8,693	641	4,794	1,320	568	

EXHIBIT No. 6.

Census of breeding bulls and cows, St. Paul Island, 1904.

Rookeries.	Harems (bulls).	Cows (pups).	Rookeries.	Harems (bulls).	Cows (pups).
Zapadni	250	9,957	Polovina Cliffs	40	1,412
Little Zapadni	100	3,983	Polovina	72	3,691
Zapadni Reef	46	1,091	Gorbatch Cliffs	12	481
Tolstoi	149	5,934	Gorbatch	151	6,014
Tolstoi Cliffs	38	1,571	Ardiguen	15	565
Lagoon	24	1,084	Reef	286	11,391
Ketovi	69	2,147	Northeast Point	454	18,557
Amphitheater	12	458	Sea Lion Rock [1]	67	2,705
Lukanin	51	2,020			
Little Polovina	21	941	Total	1,857	74,002

[1] Harems were estimated on basis of average harem, 39.83. Pups actually counted on Sea Lion Rock.

EXHIBIT No. 7.

Counts of rookeries, St. Paul Island, season of 1904.

ARDIGUEN.

Date.	Bulls.	"Quitters."	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	"Quitters."	Harems.	Cows.
1904.					1904.				
June 6	9	3			July 3	12		12	200
June 8	10				July 8	13	2	13	328
June 13	10	1			July 12	13		13	339
June 15	11				July 15	16		15	
June 18	12		3	3	July 17	14		14	293
June 19	12	1	3	4	July 23	15		13	220
June 23	12		9	20	July 25	15		14	190
June 29	14	4	12	96					

AMPHITHEATER.

1904.					1904.				
June 7	5	2			July 1	11		9	87
June 8	5	2			July 2	11	1	10	103
June 9	5	3			July 3	10	2	10	115
June 10	8	1			July 4	10	2	10	137
June 11	9	1			July 5	11		10	155
June 12	10				July 7	11	1	10	214
June 13	10				July 8	12	1	11	244
June 15	10				July 9	12	1	11	265
June 16	10				July 10	12	1	11	281
June 17	10		1	1	July 12	12	1	11	267
June 18	10		1	1	July 13	12	2	12	303
June 19	10		1	1	July 14	12	1	12	296
June 20	10		1	1	July 17	12	2	11	234
June 21	10		1	1	July 18	13	1	11	221
June 22	10		2	2	July 19	14	2	12	218
June 23	10		4	4	July 20	13		13	220
June 24	10		4	5	July 22	13	1	12	112
June 26	10		6	14	July 24	14		13	125
June 27	10		8	27	July 27	13		13	147
June 28	11	1	7	32	July 29	13		11	105
June 29	10	1	8	51	July 31	10		10	146
June 30	11	1	9	53					

GORBATCH.

1904.					1904.				
June 6	104	11			June 23	138	5	53	137
June 13	117	13			July 15	160	6	151	
June 19	128	11	21	25					

Counts of rookeries, St. Paul Island, season of 1904—Continued.

GORBATCH CLIFFS.

Date.	Bulls.	"Quitters."	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	"Quitters."	Harems.	Cows.
1904.					1904.				
June 6	10	3	.....	.....	July 8	12	1	12	267
June 13	11	.....	.....	.....	July 12	10	.....	10	249
June 19	11	1	2	2	July 15	13	.....	12	.....
June 23	12	2	4	9	July 17	13	.....	11	247
June 29	11	3	10	59	July 23	13	.....	13	168
July 3	11	1	10	122	July 25	10	1	11	135

KETOVI.

1904.					1904.				
June 7	36	11	.....	.....	June 22	54	12	21	41
June 8	39	18	.....	.....	June 28	58	6	39	152
June 9	42	15	.....	.....	July 9	70	6	61	1,087
June 19	51	10	6	6	July 13	75	3	69	.....

LUKANIN.

1904.					1904.				
June 7	41	5	.....	.....	July 1	57	8	33	410
June 8	42	2	.....	.....	July 2	55	6	38	500
June 9	42	4	.....	.....	July 3	56	7	40	548
June 10	44	3	.....	.....	July 4	58	3	40	558
June 11	43	4	.....	.....	July 5	60	.....	39	680
June 12	45	2	.....	.....	July 7	60	7	44	1,030
June 13	45	4	.....	.....	July 8	59	7	46	1,063
June 15	46	3	.....	.....	July 9	58	2	46	1,123
June 16	43	2	.....	.....	July 10	57	9	45	1,075
June 17	47	4	1	1	July 12	61	5	50	1,206
June 18	50	3	1	1	July 13	58	7	51	1,256
June 19	48	5	4	4	July 14	58	6	50	1,248
June 20	52	8	3	8	July 17	61	5	57	1,095
June 21	49	11	5	16	July 18	60	4	54	1,046
June 22	51	9	8	23	July 19	59	5	52	951
June 23	52	7	12	42	July 20	59	4	51	790
June 24	51	3	13	51	July 22	61	2	57	702
June 26	53	4	19	106	July 24	58	2	53	662
June 27	55	3	22	145	July 27	56	5	50	645
June 28	53	3	23	178	July 29	52	3	49	442
June 29	53	4	28	260	July 31	48	2	46	702
June 30	53	7	28	293	August 9	26	.....	.....	.....

LAGOON.

1904.					1904.				
June 7	16	9	.....	.....	July 4	27	2	19	263
June 14	24	2	.....	.....	July 8	28	2	23	437
June 19	26	2	2	2	July 13	29	1	24	.....

MORJOVI, EAST SIDE NORTHEAST POINT.

1904.					1904.				
June 16	17	3	.....	.....	July 6	20	.....	19	308
June 24	17	3	5	6	July 16	22	.....	19	.....
June 30	21	3	12	46					

VOSTOSHNI, WEST SIDE NORTHEAST POINT.

1904.					1904.				
June 16	29	6	.....	.....	July 6	48	8	42	692
June 24	36	8	15	23	July 16	52	.....	48	.....
June 30	42	3	27	190					

NORTHEAST POINT.

1904.					1904.				
June 16	376	45	13	14	July 17	485	9	454	.....

Counts of rookeries, St. Paul Island, season of 1904—Continued.

POLOVINA.

Date.	Bulls.	"Quitters."	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	"Quitters."	Harems.	Cows.
1904.					1904.				
June 13	62	5			July 1	72	19	39	
June 24	72	5	17	70	July 16	89	5	72	

POLOVINA CLIFFS.

1904.					1904.				
June 9	26	9			July 7	38	3	32	491
June 24	29	7	4	5	July 16	42	4	40	
July 1	33	10	24	139					

LITTLE POLOVINA.

1904.					1904.				
June 13	16	4			July 7	22	1	19	356
June 24	21		9	26	July 16	23	2	21	
July 1	20	3	14	146					

REEF.

1904.					1904.				
June 6	179	42			July 15	308	10	286	

TOLSTOI.

1904.					1904.				
June 7	120	4			June 19	150	6	18	33
June 14	136		1	1	July 13	169		149	

TOLSTOI CLIFFS.

1904.					1904.				
June 7	30	2			July 4	42		30	390
June 14	33				July 8	43		38	704
June 19	34	4	4	7	July 13	42	3	38	1,201

ZAPADNI.

1904.					1904.				
June 14	201	9	2	2	July 14	281	4	250	

LITTLE ZAPADNI.

1904.					1904.				
June 14	73	10	1	1	July 14	110		100	

ZAPADNI REEF.

1904.					1904.				
June 14	37	7	1	1	July 14	50	4	46	
July 5	50	2	38	350					

EXHIBIT No. 8.

Division of natives' earnings, St. Paul Island, Alaska, season of 1904.

By 11,132 fur-seal skins, at 50 cents	$5,566.00
To 21 first-class shares, at $174.50 each	3,664.50
To 6 second-class shares, at $139.65 each	837.90
To 4 third-class shares, at $104.70 each	418.80
To 5 fourth-class shares, at $69.80 each	349.00
To 7 special shares	295.80
	5,566.00

First-class shares.—Twenty-one men, at $174.50 each, as follows: Nicoli Bogadanoff, Karp Buterin, Jacob Kochutin, Nicoli Krukoff, Simeon Melovidoff, Simeon Nozekoff, Theodore Sedick, Dorafay Stepetin, John Stepetin, Peter Tetoff, A. Bourdukofsky, George Kotchergin, John Kochutin, Alex. Merculieff, Parfiri Pankoff, Necon Shabolin, Elary Stepetin, Neon Tetoff, Rev. John E. Orloff, John Krukoff, George Shisenikoff.

Second-class shares.—Six men, at $139.65 each, as follows: Peter Bourdukofsky, Nicoli Gromoff, Metrofan Krukoff, John Fratis, jr., Innokenty Sedick, Zahar Tetoff.

Third-class shares.—Four men, at $104.70 each, as follows: Michael Kushin, Trefan Kochutin, Stepan Rookavishnikoff, John Merculieff.

Fourth-class shares.—Five men, at $69.80 each, as follows: John Fratis, sr., Michael Kozloff, Paul Koshevnikoff, Alex. Galaktioneff, Constantine Buterin.

Special-class shares.—Seven men, as follows: Nicoli Kozloff, $30; Vlass Pankoff, $30; Yvanally Kozeroff, $30; Fedor Kochutin, $30; Alexander Melovidoff, $75.80; Nicoli Krukoff (first chief), $50; Jacob Kochutin (second chief), $50.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, *August 10, 1904.*

I hereby certify that the above division was made by me in the manner detailed above, after conference with the representative of the North American Commercial Co. and the native chiefs on this island.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, *August 10, 1904.*

I hereby certify that the amounts as above stated, representing the division of St. Paul Island for the season of 1904, will be placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

J. C. REDPATH,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, *August 10, 1904.*

We hereby approve the division for St. Paul Island for the season of 1904, as above detailed, for and on behalf of the natives of this island.

NICOLI KRUKOFF, *First Chief.*
JACOB KOCHUTIN, *Second Chief.*

EXHIBIT No. 9.

Census of St. Paul Island, June 30, 1904.

Name.	Relation.	Age (years). Male.	Female.
Bogadanoff, Nicoli	Husband	32	
Bogadanoff, Uleta	Wife		37
Bogadanoff, Agrafina	Niece		7
Bourdukofsky, Apollon	Father	50	
Bourdukofsky, Peter	Son	25	
Bourdukofsky, Uleta	Daughter		20
Buterin, Karp	Husband	50	
Buterin, Parascovia	Wife		48
Buterin, Constantine	Son	18	
Mazeekin, Wassalisa	Orphan		9
Fratis, John	Husband	59	
Fratis, Akalina	Wife		30
Fratis, John, jr. (by former wife).	Son	18	
Fratis, Agrafina	Daughter		13
Fratis, Simeon	Son	10	
Fratis, Ouliana	Daughter		8
Fratis, Martha	do		5
Galaktioneff, Alexander	Husband	32	
Galaktioneff, Lukeria	Wife		27
Galaktioneff, Anna	Stepdaughter		3
Galaktioneff, Mary	Daughter		2
Galaktioneff, Matrona	do		8/13
Gromoff, Nicoli	Husband	36	
Gromoff, Ouliana	Wife		34
Stepetin, Pavla	Adopted daughter.		12
Volkoff, Tecon	Adopted son	11	
Stepetin, Elary, jr	do	3	
Kochutin, Jacob	Husband	52	
Kochutin, Alexandra	Wife		42
Kochutin, Theodore	Son	16	
Kochutin, Larion	do	11	
Mandregan, Innokenty	Orphan	12	
Mandregan, Nekifer	do	8	
Koshevnikoff, Paul	Husband	20	
Koshevnikoff, Mary	Wife		30
Kochutin, John	Husband	33	
Kochutin, Claudia	Wife		24
Kochutin, Nicanor	Son	3	
Kochutin, Erena	Daughter		1
Vickiloff, Alexander	Stepson	6	
Kochutin, Trefan	Husband	18	
Kochutin, Parascovia	Wife		17
Kochutin, Eupheme	Son	5/12	
Kotchergin, George	Husband	26	
Kotchergin, Agafia	Wife		24
Emanoff, Mary	Cousin		12
Kozloff, Michael	Son	18	
Kozloff, Parascovia	Mother		45
Kozloff, Nicoli	Brother	16	
Serebrinikoff, Ripsimia	Cousin		11
Krukoff, John	Widower	24	
Dyakanoff, Andrew	Stepson	10	
Krukoff, Nicoli	Husband	53	
Krukoff, Catherine	Wife		43
Krukoff, Metrofan	Son	21	
Krukoff, Eustinia	Daughter		14
Emanoff, Alexai	Nephew	6	
Kushin, Michael	Son	19	
Kushin, Mary	Mother		49
Kushin, Nestor	Nephew	11	
Hanson, John	do	8	
Hopoff, Nekita	Orphan	14	
Melovidoff, Alexander	Husband	29	
Melovidoff, Salome	Wife		28
Melovidoff, Antone	Son	10	
Melovidoff, Alexandra	Daughter		2
Melovidoff, Alfai	Son	1	
Melovidoff, Simeon	Husband	36	
Melovidoff, Alexandra	Wife		36
Melovidoff, Margaret	Daughter		12
Melovidoff, Christopher	Son	10	
Melovidoff, Alexander	Son	8	
Melovidoff, Simeon, jr	do	5	
Melovidoff, Alexandra	Niece		23
Merculieff, Alexander	Husband	28	
Merculieff, Agafia	Wife		26
Merculieff, Paul	Son	9	
Merculieff, Auxenia	Daughter		8
Merculieff, Terenty	Son	1	
Merculieff, Paul	Brother	14	
Nozekoff, Simeon	Husband	27	
Nozekoff, Avdotia	Wife		29
Nozekoff, Mary	Daughter		6
Kozeroff, Ivanally	Half-brother	16	
Kozeroff, Sandulia	Half-sister		13
Kozeroff, Alexandra	do		11
Pankoff, Parfiri	Father	41	
Pankoff, Vlass	Son	16	
Pankoff, Martha	Daughter		6
Rookavishnikoff, Stepan	Husband	23	
Rookavishnikoff, Elizabeth.	Wife		17
Sedick, Theodore	Husband	56	
Sedick, Martha	Wife		49
Sedick, Innokenty	Son	19	
Sedick, Mary	Daughter		17
Sedick, Matrona	do		13
Sedick, John	Son	7	
Shabolin, Necon	Husband	37	
Shabolin, Foecla	Wife		34
Shabolin, Agrafina	Daughter		16
Shabolin, Varvara	do		6
Shabolin, Matrona	do		4
Shabolin, Daniel	Son	1	
Shane, Elifery	Stepson	15	
Stepetin, Dorofay	Husband	33	
Stepetin, Luboff	Wife		28
Stepetin, Chionia	Daughter		9
Stepetin, Auxenia	do		5
Stepetin, Catherine	do		6/12
Stepetin, Elary	Husband	40	
Stepetin, Anna	Wife		33
Stepetin, Agnes	Daughter		8
Stepetin, Nicoli	Son	1	
Stepetin, John	Husband	24	
Stepetin, Vera	Wife		24
Stepetin, Vassili	Son	3	
Stepetin, Vassili	Nephew	11	
Shisen koff, George	Husband	22	
Shisenikoff, Ouliana	Wife		16
Shisenikoff, Mary	Daughter		4/12
Tetoff, Neon	Husband	34	
Tetoff, Agrafina	Wife		29
Tetoff, Simeon	Son	12	
Tetoff, Mary	Daughter		8
Tetoff, Demetri	Son	6	
Tetoff, Irena	Daughter		4
Tetoff, Agrafina	do		2
Tetoff, John	Son	1/12	
Tetoff, Peter	Husband	39	
Tetoff, Mary	Wife		43
Kochutin, Varvara	Adopted daughter.		7
Nedarazo, Mary	Orphan		11
Tetoff, Zahar	Husband	25	
Tetoff, Daria	Wife		24
Tetoff, Peter	Son	2	
Orloff, Rev. J. E	Father	36	
Orloff, Nicoli	Son	10	
Orloff, Alexandra	Daughter		7
Nedarazoff, Catherine	Widow		46
Merculieff, John	Husband	18	
Merculieff, Avdotia	Wife		31

Census of St. Paul Island, June 30, 1904—Continued.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

Name.	Relation.	Age (years). Male.	Age (years). Female.	Name.	Relation.	Age (years). Male.	Age (years). Female.
Kochutin, Zenobia	Spinster	....	36	Seduli, Elizabeth	Widow	....	63
Kochutin, Innokenty	Son	1	....	Mazeekin, John	Orphan	14	....
Kochutin, Mark	Nephew	9	....	Stepetin, Marena	Granddaughter.	....	6
Krukoff, Anna	Widow	....	38				
Krukoff, Mary	Daughter	....	7	Artomonoff, Alexandra	Widow	....	50
Mandregan, Zoya	Orphan	....	17	Vickiloff, Alexandra	Adopted daughter.	....	9
Krukoff, Feotesta	Widow	....	38				
Krukoff, Condrat	Son	14	....	Balakshin, Matrona	Widow	....	54
Emanoff, Mary	Widow	....	26	Rookavishnikoff, Parascovia.	Niece	....	15
Emanoff, Eneka	Son	3	....				
Emanoff, Peter	do	8/12	....	Shaposhnikoff, Parascovia.	Spinster	....	37
Peeshnikoff, Wassalisa	Widow	....	44				

RESIDING ELSEWHERE.

Krukoff, Lukeria		....	27	Zaharoff, Fedosia		....	27
Mandregan, Mary		....	20	Popoff, Alexandra		....	9
Melovidoff, Marcia		....	16	Tetoff, Sophia		....	16
Sedick, Avdotia		....	23				

RECAPITULATION.

Number of males	80
Number of females	81
Total number of residents	161
Deaths during fiscal year	4
Departures	2
Births during fiscal year	7
Arrivals	1

Exhibit No. 10.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES OF NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO., FOR NATIVES, ST. PAUL ISLAND.

North American Commercial Co.,
St. Paul Island, August 12, 1904.

Dear Sir: In compliance with your verbal request of August 10, 1904, we submit you the accompanying statement of amounts expended for maintenance of widows and orphans for year ending May 31, 1904, number of widows and orphans so supported, amounts expended for physician, amounts expended for medical supplies, number of native dwellings, amount expended for repairs of same, amounts expended for maintenance of school, and amount expended for maintenance of place of religious worship.

The church building on this island has always been the property of the Russian Church, and that body has always maintained their building.

We have made the statement as complete as the time and data at hand will permit, but we believe the figures to be incomplete, and for further information refer you to the North American Commercial Co. at San Francisco.

The figures submitted are given the department in confidence.

Very respectfully,

J. C. Redpath, *Agent.*

Mr. W. I. Lembkey,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

Statement to Mr. W. I. Lembkey of expenditures by North American Commercial Co. on St. Paul Island for the following accounts, for the year ending May 31, 1904.

Widows and orphans:	
Amount expended for support of 8 widows, 2 spinsters, and 20 orphans.	$1,927.35
40 pounds mixed candy, 1 pound each to each of the 20 orphans on name days and birthdays, at 20 cents	8.00
40 pounds mixed nuts, 1 pound each to each of the 20 orphans twice a year, i. e., on name days and birthdays, at 25 cents	10.00
Physicians and medical supplies:	
Salary of physician	1,200.00
Board and lodging for physician, 52 weeks, at $13 a week	676.00
Medical supplies consumed (at San Francisco cost)	430.94
$3\frac{7}{2}\frac{7}{2}\frac{0}{4}\frac{0}{0}$ tons coal consumed by dispensary, at $20 a ton	66.92
Native dwellings:	
Materials expended for repairs of native dwellings (at San Francisco cost), exclusive of cost of labor and materials derived from demolishing a building	49.42
School supplies consumed (San Francisco cost)	19.34
$3\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}\frac{4}{0}\frac{4}{0}$ tons coal consumed by school, at $20 a ton	75.85
Salary and mess allowance to school-teacher. (The regular teacher was in San Francisco from Aug. 17, 1903, to June 6, 1904, on vacation)	950.00
Salary substitute school-teacher for 9 months and 13 days	471.66
Board and lodging substitute teacher from Aug. 8, 1903, to May 31, 1904, 51 (*sic*) weeks, at $13 per week	663.00
Recapitulation:	
Expended for widows and orphans	1,943.35
Expended for physician and medical supplies	2,373.86
Expended for repairs, native dwellings	49.42
Expended for school supplies and teachers	2,179.85
Total	6,546.48

Exhibit No. 11.

Report of assistant agent Chichester, St. Paul.

St. Paul Island, Alaska, *June 5, 1904.*

Sir: I have the honor to submit my report of the condition of affairs on St. Paul Island during the period of my administration, which extended from August 17, 1903, to June 5, 1904.

Arrival and departure of vessels.—After the departure of the company's steamer on August 17 a number of vessels called at the island.

On August 20 H. M. S. *Shearwater* arrived, and her commander, Capt. Umfreville, in behalf of himself and officers, asked permission to visit a rookery. They were shown a portion of Gorbatch.

On August 25 U. S. S. *Thetis* landed Senator Dietrich, of Nebraska, and Mr. Hamilton, assistant commissioner of education for Alaska. They remained a day and a night, and were shown as much of the rookeries and island as their brief stay would permit.

By the U. S. S. *Bear* on her August visit there returned here, with your permission, for permanent residence Mrs. Alexander Artomonof, who has been absent for several years. As she is a widow I at once informed the company's agent that she would have to be supported by the company. He agreed to do so, but filed the following protest with the request that the matter be carried to the department for settlement. This letter I sent you per last mail, November 1, 1903.

St. Paul Island, *August 29, 1903.*

Dear Sir: As regards matter of the arbitrary return and placing the burden of support upon the company of Mrs. Alexander Artomonof (widow), I hereby enter protest for following reasons:

First. Said widow (not native of this island), against the wishes of this company, left their support, took all her belongings with her with the avowed purpose of spend-

ing her remaining years elsewhere. (Approved at your office.) After being reported destitute she is returned to us by you.

Second. It seems to me under this ruling all natives (former residents) as they become infirm and destitute in other parts of the world may return to the support of the company at will, thereby imposing an unexpected and unjust burden.

Third. In my reading of the terms of our lease I am unable to determine on what grounds this action has been taken and desire to be enlightened. We have no desire to evade any of our obligations to the Government, or the people, as therein applied.

Yours, faithfully,

NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
W. C. ALLIS, *Agent.*

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Treasury Agent.

In addition to a considerable amount of household stuff, Mrs. Artomonof brought back with her $220 in cash.

Special thanks are due Capt. Wild, commanding U. S. S. *Bear*, for many courtesies received.

Date of arrival.	Names of vessels.	Date of departure.	Date of arrival.	Names of vessels.	Date of departure.
1903.		1903.	1903.		1903.
Aug. 20	H. M. S. Shearwater	Aug. 21	Sept. 21	U. S. S. Bear	Sept. 22
25	U. S. S. Thetis	26	Oct. 21	U. S. S. Manning	Oct. 23
26	U. S. S. Bear	27	Nov. 1	U. S. S. Bear	Nov. 1

Branding pups.—Having previously arranged everything for branding, on October 12 I made a drive of pups from the Reef and secured about 700. Work at once began and was pushed forward as rapidly as possible, but when 274 pups had been branded a heavy storm of wet snow and rain came on, soaking the remaining pups and rendering them unfit for branding. They were reluctantly turned into the sea. From this time on the weather was so wet and unfavorable for branding and the reaching of the more distant rookeries by boat that further operations were abandoned for the season.

Count of dead pups.—Late in the fall the rookeries were thoroughly gone over for dead pups, and the following is the result:

Date.	Rookeries.	Number of dead.	Date.	Rookeries.	Number of dead.
1903.			1903.		
Oct. 29	Little Zapadni	1	Nov. 3	Gorbatch	213
29	Zapadni Reef	22	3	Ardiguen	13
29	Zapadni	152	3	Reef	236
29	Tolstoi Cliffs	121	7	Polivina	54
29	Tolstoi	234	7	Little Polivina	18
30	Ketovi	17			
30	Amphitheater	8		Total	1,160
30	Lukanin	71			

Killing pups by the natives.—While overhauling Ketovi rookery for dead pups I ran across unmistakable signs that some one had been killing pups on that rookery. Returning to the village I called in the chief, told him what I had seen, and turned over to him two pups' heads I found hidden in a crevice of the rock. The skulls were broken and the skin neatly trimmed in a circle behind the ears. There followed a meeting of the people, and later on a committee waited on me, and I was informed that Alexander Galaktenof and Mike Kushin, on the night of October 27 (just one day after a food kill of 150 seals had been made), visited the rookery and killed the pups. Galaktenof and Kushin were both called in and admitted their guilt. They would give no reasons except that they wanted meat. Further questioning soon developed that pup killing has been a common practice with all the natives, and has gone on for years.

With one or two exceptions, every native man on the island admitted of having killed from one to two pups each year. None over two. Their testimony was

extremely conflicting, and being satisfied that the whole truth was not being told, and wishing to obtain accurate information of the amount of damage done, I endeavored to put them on oath. They refused to make any sworn statement whatever, were insolent and rebellious. Having no method at my command by which I could punish them all, except stopping their sugar, I adopted this weak measure. A few days later four men came and asked to be sworn, and a month later the rest fell into line and were put on oath, but as for determining the actual number of pups killed the information thus obtained was of no more value than that already secured.

The following is the number of pups killed by each individual, as stated under oath:

Names.	Pups killed, 1903.	Pups killed, 1902.	Names.	Pups killed, 1903.	Pups killed, 1902.
Apollon Bourdukofsky			John Kochooten	2	1
Peter Bourdukofsky	2	2	John M. Krukof	3	2
John Fratis, jr	2	1	Mike Kozlof	1	
Paul Koshevnikof	2	1	Trefan Kockooten	2	
Neon Tetof			Stepan Rookavishnikof	2	
Mike Kushin	2	2	Alexander Galaktenof	1	1
Simeon Nozekof	2	1	Zachar Tetof	1	1
Inokenty Sedick	1	2	Nekon Shabolin	2	2
Dorafay Stepetin	2	1	Porifiri Pankof	1	1
Nikolai Krukof		1	Ilary Stepetin	1	
Jake Kochooten	1		Peter Tetof	1	
Alexander Merculif (second chief)	2	1	John Stepetin	1	2
George Kochergin	2	3	George Shaisnikof	1	3
Alexander Melevedof	2	2	John Merculif	1	2
Metrofan Krukof	1	1	Fedor Sedick		
Karp Buterin	1	1	Total	43	36
Nikolai Bogadanof	1	2			

School.—The school opened promptly on September 1, 1903, and was maintained until May 1, 1904. Twenty-three boys and 17 girls were in attendance. Mr. Lambert, who conducted the school this year, was painstaking and earnest in his work, and the scholars made good progress under his guidance.

I inclose herewith Mr. Lambert's report.

Foxing.—Pursuant to your verbal instructions, foxing was allowed for the period of one week and resulted in an entire failure. Fifteen blue and five white skins were obtained.

The trapping season opened on November 23 with every condition most favorable for a successful catch. That it was a failure is entirely due to the fact that the blue fox on this island is practically exterminated. What the causes are that led to this extermination I am unable to say. I have tried in every way to obtain information that would throw some light on the subject but to no purpose.

After the close of the trapping season up to the present time not a week has gone by without natives visiting nearly all parts of the island, and during this time but two foxes have been seen. They were at Northeast Point. Some tracks have been observed on the Reef and Tolstoi as well as at Zapadni.

Fox Division, St. Paul Island, season 1903.

Names.	Localities.	White.	Blue.	Amount.
A. Bourdukofsky	Northeast Point	1		$1.00
Constantine Buterin	Southwest Bay		1	5.00
Karp Buterin	do		1	5.00
John Fratis, jr	Village		1	5.00
John M. Krukof	do		1	5.00
Metrofan Krukof	do		2	10.00
Nikolai Krukof	do	1	2	11.00
Trefan Kochooten	do		1	5.00
Mike Kushin	North Shore		1	5.00
Mike Kozlof	Southwest Bay	1		1.00
Jake Kochooten	West Point	1		1.00
Alex. Merculif	Halfway Point		2	10.00
Sim. Nozekof	Southwest Bay	1		1.00
Ilary Stepetin	Wreck (north shore)		2	10.00
Neon Tetof	Northwest Point		1	5.00
Total		5	15	80.00

Improvements.—In accordance with your instructions, I moved the Government boathouse. As you left the selection of a new site to me, I placed it alongside of the company's Point warehouse on the south side. This is the best possible place that could be found for it, as it is amply protected from the sea by the warehouse and wharf. I have also built wooden launching ways from the house to deep water, by means of which the boat can be launched at any tide and with little or no difficulty.

Government house has been thoroughly renovated and painted inside and out. The boathouse and boat *No. 2* have also received a coat of paint.

A new calador was also constructed at the rear of the coal house.

Early last fall the natives built a substantial addition to their club and library to accommodate a billiard table. Both the materials for the room and the table are a gift from Mr. Taylor of the North American Commerical Co.

General health.—The general health of the natives has been remarkably good. No epidemics have occurred, and there has been but four deaths during the entire year. Three of these were old chronic cases.

Births have outnumbered the deaths by 3, 7 children having been born, 3 males and 4 females.

I inclose herewith report of the resident physician.

Seals.—Seals were scarce during the fall and early winter. Nine drives for food were made from the various rookeries and 1,853 seals killed. Quite a number of carcasses were frozen and put away at Northeast Point, and during the winter this supply of meat was steadily drawn upon.

After each killing large numbers of gulls visited the ground and anything that was left by the natives in the shape of meat was speedily eaten. In fact I was astonished at the short time required for these voracious birds to completely clean up a killing field.

A small bunch of bachelors hung about the island all winter despite the fact that the ice shut us in completely for a week.

Estates.—By the death of Keonia Bourdukofsky and Zachar Sedick, two estates are to be divided. That of Zachar Sedick, amounting to $109 and interest for one year at 4 per cent, I have divided equally between his two sisters, Elizabeth Rookavishnikof and Avdotia Sedick. Elizabeth having a bank account, her portion has been added to it, while Avdotia's share has been placed to her credit on the company's books as an open account, they having refused to receive any more interest accounts.

Quass.—The usual amount of quass has been brewed this winter—that is to say, nine-tenths of the sugar, three-fourths of the jelly, and one-third to one-half of the flour issued to the natives has gone into the manufacture of intoxicating liquor. The result, as usual, has been deplorable. Women have been cruelly beaten, children inhumanly treated, interior of houses wrecked and endangered by fire from overturning lamps and stoves, and the life of the Government officer jeopardized. In fact, it was by the merest chance that I was not deliberately shot down by a drunken native as I entered his house to take him into custody for a murderous assault upon a neighbor. The following is a detailed account of the affair:

I was called out at 1 o'clock in the morning of February 22 by Mrs. Jake Kochooten. She was decidedly drunk and incoherent, but I managed to gather from her wild talk that her husband had either been killed or was being killed by Alexander Melevedof. Dressing hastily, I ran to the house and found Jake alone. He had a nasty cut over his eye, was covered with blood and bruises, and presented a sorry-looking spectacle. The house was in the greatest disorder, chairs and tables overturned and broken, lamps smashed, and carpet torn. Jake was exceedingly drunk, and all I could learn from him was that Alex. Melevedof had attempted to kill him with a knife. I immediately went in search of Melevedof, and with the aid of the second chief, who was also drunk, but could walk, I found him at the house of Vasalisa Peeshnikoff. I attempted to handcuff him, but he resisted so stoutly that in self-defense I was forced to use vigorous measures. During the struggle one of the handcuffs became locked, and in my hurry I had left the key at home. I was therefore able to put the handcuff on one arm only. We then set out with him for the building used as a jail. Stopping a moment at the company's house for the key, I left the prisoner in charge of the second chief. He promptly hit the second chief over the head with the handcuff, broke away, and went home, where he loaded up his double-barreled shotgun, and, placing himself in the dark back room, where I could not see him as I came through the door, swore he would kill me the moment I entered the house. Melevedof's wife, who was also drunk, endeavored to take away the gun, but couldn't. Mary Koshenikof then came in, and between them the two women managed to get the gun away, and set it in the calador just as the second chief and myself came in. I again took Melevedof in charge, handcuffed his loose arm, and locked him up in the temporary jail. He was no sooner left alone than he kicked the sash out of the

window and made his escape. I then handcuffed him with his hands behind him, secured his legs, and locked him up, and had no further trouble. In the morning I sentenced him to 21 days on bread and water for drunkenness and fighting. His sugar had been previously stopped for the same cause.

It was not until some days later that I learned of the attempt upon my life. The matter had been carefully hidden from me by the chiefs. I held an investigation and took the testimony of Melevedof's wife, son, and Mary Koshevnikof. All three tell substantially the same story.

When drunk this man is perfectly lawless and filled with an insane desire to kill. He is a constant source of danger to the Government officer and the people, and I respectfully request that he be removed from the island permanently.

This island stands in great need of a substantial jail. The building kindly loaned by the company for the purpose is entirely inadequate.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent in Charge St. Paul Island.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Special Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor, in Charge of Seal Islands.

REPORT OF RESIDENT PHYSICIAN, ST. PAUL, 1904.

NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 1, 1904.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I respectfully submit the following medical report for St. Paul Island for the year beginning June 1, 1903, and ending May 31, 1904:

The general health has been very good, especially when you consider the care, or rather the lack of care, the natives take of themselves, as they will stand bareheaded in a snowstorm to cool immediately after taking a steam bath.

During February and March of 1904 there was a slight epidemic of bronchitis, and one new case of pulmonary tuberculosis developed, aside from which there has been no contagious diseases on the island for the past year.

Of all cases treated 75 per cent were gastrointestinal, due to the irregular habits of the natives, while the majority of the remaining 25 per cent were of bronchial origin.

The record of births and deaths for the year is, respectively, as follows:

Births.—Salome Melovidov, son, Alfa, June 13, 1903; Daria Tettoff, daughter, Sophia, September 27, 1903; Maria Emanoff, son, Peter, October 11, 1903; Lukeria Galactionoff, daughter, Martha, October 17, 1903; Luboff Stepetin, daughter, Catherine, December 6, 1903; Parascovia Kotchooten, son, Eupheme, January 7, 1904; Oulianna Shisenikoff, daughter, Mary, February 25, 1904; Agrifina Tetoff, son, John, May 21, 1904. Total, 8; 4 males, 4 females.

Deaths.—Rufus Bourdakofsky, 1 year, acute gastroenteritis, June 8, 1903; Zahar Sedick, 18 years, pulmonary tuberculosis, March 11, 1904; Kionia Bourdakofsky, 43 years, uremia with carcinomatous degeneration of large uterine fibroid and hemorrhage, May 12, 1904; Sophia Tetoff, 8 months, enterocolitis, May 29, 1904; Ellen Krukoff, 28 years, pulmonary tuberculosis, May 31, 1904. Total, 5; 2 males, 3 females.

Respectfully,

MARK A. WILLIAMSON, M. D.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor, in Charge St. Paul Island.

SCHOOL REPORT.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *April 29, 1904.*

DEAR SIR: Following is the report of St. Paul Island School for the eight months commencing September 1, 1903, and ending April 29, 1904, inclusive:

Number of pupils enrolled.	Class.	Number of pupils in class.	Pupils' names.	Age.	Days present.	Days absent.	Days excused on account of sickness.	Times tardy.	Reading.	Writing.	Spelling.	Arithmetic.
1	Fourth	1	Nicoli Kozloff	16	155	....	1	8	3	3	3	3
2	.....do	2	Theodore Kochooten	15	155	....	1	4	3	3	3	2
3	.....do	3	Nekita Hopoff	14	153	....	3	1	3	3	2	2
4	Third	1	Condrat Krukoff	13	152	....	4	....	3	3	3	2
5	.....do	2	Elifery Shane	14	152	....	4	1	2	2	2	3
6	.....do	3	Vlass Pankoff	15	148	2	6	6	2	3	1	2
7	Second	1	Agraphena Fratis	12	151	....	5	....	3	3	2	2
8	.....do	2	Matrona Sedick	13	156	....	....	1	3	2	2	3
9	.....do	3	Pavla Stepetin	12	152	....	4	2	3	3	2	3
10	.....do	4	Parascovia Rookovishnikoff	14	151	....	5	1	2	2	1	2
11	.....do	5	Sandulia Kozeroff	13	77	....	79	3	2	3	2	3
12	.....do	6	Ustenia Krukoff	15	93	....	63	3	3	3	2	3
13	.....do	7	Antone Melevidov	10	156	....	....	....	2	2	2	3
14	.....do	8	Paul Murculieff No. 1	14	153	....	3	....	3	2	2	3
15	.....do	9	Simeon Fratis	10	155	....	1	....	2	2	1	2
16	First	1	Alexandra Kozeroff	11	137	1	18	5	3	2	3	3
17	.....do	2	Repsemia Seerebrinikoff	11	146	2	8	9	3	2	3	2
18	.....do	3	John Meezekin	13	153	....	3	3	2	2	2	3
19	.....do	4	Larion Kochooten	11	156	....	....	3	2	1	2	1
20	.....do	5	Nestor Kushin	11	154	....	2	....	3	3	3	3
21	First primer	1	Andrew Diakanoff	10	152	2	2	....	3	2	3	2
22	.....do	2	Mark Kochooten	9	65	....	91	....	2	2	2	2
23	.....do	3	Necoli Orloff	9	146	....	10	....	3	2	2	1
24	.....do	4	Nekifor Mandregan	8	137	....	19	4	3	2	3	2
25	.....do	5	Paul Murculieff No. 2	10	145	....	11	....	2	2	2	1
26	.....do	6	Alexandra Vekoloff	9	76	....	80	7	3	2	2	0
27	Second primer	1	Auxenia Murculieff	8	152	....	4	....	2	1	0	....
28	.....do	2	Agnia Stepetin	8	156	....	....	....	3	2	2	....
29	.....do	3	Chionia Stepetin	2	149	2	5	4	2	1	0	....
30	.....do	4	Mary Emanoff	11	139	....	17	2	2	2	1	....
31	.....do	5	Mary Nedarezoff	19	149	3	4	4	3	1	0	....
32	.....do	6	Mary Tetoff	8	155	1	....	1	2	2	0	....
33	.....do	7	Oulianna Fratis	8	153	....	3	....	3	2	2	....
34	.....do	8	Vassa Meezekin	9	153	3	....	2	2	1	1	....
35	.....do	9	John Hanson	0	142	....	14	....	3	2	3	1
36	.....do	10	Simeon Tetoff	18	154	....	2	1	2	2	1	0
37	.....do	11	Vassely Stepetin	11	156	....	....	8	3	1	3	1
38	Alphabet	1	Euphnally Kozeroff	14	156	....	....	4	3	....	....	....
39	.....do	2	Innokenty Mandregan	13	152	....	4	4	1	....	....	....
40	.....do	3	Techan Volkoff	12	148	....	8	....	0	....	....	....
			Total	....	5,740	16	484	91	40	37	37	29

Character of pupils' recitations: Marked good, 3; medium, 2; poor, 1; very poor, 0.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Number of pupils enrolled (males 23, females 17)	40
Average daily attendance	$36\frac{124}{156}$
Average daily absences	$3\frac{32}{156}$
Average attendance	92
Number of cases of tardiness	91
Average age of pupils	$11\frac{1}{4}$
Number of weeks of school	$31\frac{1}{5}$
Number of days of school	156

The following is the statement of time of tuition and study throughout the eight school months: 9 o'clock a. m., calling the roll, 5 minutes; time for study, 25 minutes; arithmetic, 25 minutes; spelling, 15 minutes; recess, 15 minutes; fourth reader, 25 minutes; third reader, 25 minutes; second reader, 25 minutes; first reader, 20 minutes. 1 o'clock p. m., primer class, first, 25 minutes; primer class, second, 25 minutes; alphabet, 20 minutes; calisthenics, 10 minutes; slate work, 40 minutes.

Monday and Wednesday, spelling, 40 minutes; Tuesday and Thursday, writing, 40 minutes; Friday, reviews.

Names of books used.—Baldwin's Reader, John H. Walsh and Robinson Arithmetics, Sheldon's Speller, California Vertical Copy Books.

Respectfully,

W. E. LAMBERT, *Teacher.*

W. C. AELIS,
Agent North American Commercial Agent.

EXHIBIT No. 12.

CERTIFICATE SHIPMENT SEALSKINS, ST. GEORGE, 1904.

Division Special Agents.
Form 17.

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 8, 1904.

This is to certify that 1,996 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Kruger*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, St. George.

K. A. AHLIN, *Master "W. H. Kruger."*

EXHIBIT No. 13.

AGENT CLARK'S REPORT ON YEAR'S BUSINESS, ST. GEORGE.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
St. George Island, Alaska, August 8, 1904.

DEAR SIR: I forward this day under several covers the following-mentioned reports concerning the business conducted on this island under my supervision during the past year, to wit: Abstract of sealskins taken (in duplicate); weight of each sealskin taken during season; report of food seals killed during year; fox division, community fund, 1904; seal division, community fund, 1904; census of St. George natives, June 30, 1904; harem counts and rookery statistics, 1904; counts of live pups and dead pups, current season; report of branding of young bachelor seals, 1904; statement of expenditures of North American Commercial Co. maintaining school for native children the past year; expenditures of North American Commercial Co. for physicians and medicines, 1904; statement of expenditures of North American Commercial Co. in providing for widows, orphans, and infirm, 1903–4; statement of expenditures of North American Commercial Co. for repairs of native dwellings and house of religious worship, 1903–4; shipping receipt for sealskins shipped (in duplicate).

In transmitting these reports I beg to say that the data embraced in them embodies about all the facts which I would embody in an extended report were I to make one. When I saw you in June I handed you some memoranda regarding the foxing of last winter, and to that I may add here that we were happily disappointed in getting a greater number of foxes than we expected to obtain, and especially greater than the indications early in the foxing season led us to expect. The foxes appeared in the autumn to be in an especially healthy and good condition, and that has characterized the condition of the fox herd for the whole year. Very few dead foxes have been observed, although especial attention has been given during the whole year to gathering information of casualties to these animals.

My own observations and those of the natives, so far as I can ascertain, have been that the young foxes of this year are healthy, and that the litters are larger than were those of the year last passed. Yet in this connection it is proper to add that the number of foxes breeding near the village is fewer than last year. This is doubtless owing to the fact that our first catch and killing of last year was of village foxes, so to speak, and those burrowing near the village. Also the access to the burrows which they formerly used under the salt house (and other buildings grouped with it) was cut off and the foxes occupying them were killed. The great majority of the foxes branded last winter, I believe, have their habitat and breeding grounds at remote places on the island.

The young foxes—10 pairs in number—which were desired for transfer to Kadiak or the islands near there were gotten without difficulty. Of the natives, 19 were engaged in catching them under the direction of the chief and second chief. The company agent paid these natives $20 in cash for the 20 foxes taken.

The sealing season was concluded without notable incident after the completion of the branding of this island's quota of 200 bachelor 3-year-olds and 200 bachelor 2-year-olds. Every effort was made to adhere in our taking of skins to the limit of 5½ pounds for skins. Naturally the company agent was desirous of getting the full quota allowed the company for the year, but I did not observe on his part any disposition to do so in disregard of the limit as to size and weight. All tried to keep the selection of the seals knocked down to the limit of 5½ pounds; but it was not until near the close of the sealing season that I was able to so manage the selection as to avoid killing any under the size limited. Evidently the company would not have gotten its allowance of 2,000 skins on this island had the limit been strictly adhered to. This fact is significant in considering the steady diminution of the seal herd and in connection with the fact that this year's quota was less than two-thirds of the number taken here last year. It is fair to remember, however, that food skins were taken from July 31 to August 10, whereas no seals were killed this year after July 31.

The counts of pups and harems, tabulated statements of which are forwarded, furnish mournful evidence of the diminution of the breeding herd, irrespective of the falling off in young bachelors or killables.

The great scarcity of breeding bulls on this island and the steady falling off in their number is particularly noteworthy. The action of the department in providing, through the branding of young male seals, for new blood to draw upon to replenish the stock of breeding bulls is timely. Yet if the pelagic sealers are permitted to continue their depredations, this measure will fail utterly to accomplish the purpose and will serve only to enrich the spoilers of our industry.

The rookeries on this island were driven twice a week during the past season, with the exception of Zapadni. It is a question if this is not too often, especially with the fast driving which the natives are likely to make in rainy weather or when the seals from any cause are lively. On our last drive, which was made in a rainstorm, several of the seals were observed with abraided flippers and testes. This condition was observed by both Mr. Chechester and myself, and he ascribed it at the time to frequent driving. I mention it here to suggest inquiry and the remedy. I will add that the condition named was not noticed until our very last sealing.

I must beg you to excuse these hastily prepared remarks. I would cheerfully have made an extended report had I thought it would aid you any in yours.

Very respectfully, yours, etc.,

EZRA W. CLARK, *Assistant Agent.*

W. I. LEMBKEY, Esq., *Agent Seal Fisheries.*

EXHIBIT NO. 14.

AGENT CLARK'S REPORT ON BRANDING BACHELORS, ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
St. George Island, Alaska, August 8, 1904.

DEAR SIR: The branding of seals under department's letter of instructions requiring the branding on this island of 200 three-year-old and 200 two-year-old seals, to be selected from the early drives of the season, was begun on June 7, when a drive of 17 seals was obtained, of which 8 three-year-olds and 1 two-year-old were branded, the others in the drive being too large. Hot irons were used for burning off the hair and into the fur on the head; the irons were used by myself. From this date the branding was continued by selections made from the drives. On June 21 rain was falling, rendering the use of hot irons difficult and slow work. Some sheep shears in possession of the company were now tried for clipping the hair and fur, and it was found that an effective mark could be made with the shears, even more conspicuous than that made with the hot irons, also that the wet weather did not interfere with the use of the shears. The subsequent branding was therefore done with shears, this method being deemed a substantial compliance with your directions on this subject.

The entire quota of this island was obtained by July 2.

Appended is a memorandum showing the number branded by dates:

Dates.	Three-year-olds.	Two-year-olds.	Dates.	Three-year-olds.	Two-year-olds.
June 7	8	1	June 28	.....	68
June 11	4	13	July 2	.....	43
June 16	45	21			
June 21	25	13	Total	204	200
June 23	122	41			

The marks remained conspicuous during all the season's drives. Quite a number of seals with the St. Paul brand (+) appeared in our drives.

Respectfully submitted.

Your obedient servant,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent Seal Fisheries.*

EXHIBIT No. 15.

AGENT CLARK'S REPORT ON COMPANY'S EXPENDITURES, ST. GEORGE.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
St. George Island, August 8, 1904.

DEAR SIR: Referring to the provision in department's letter of instructions dated May 1, 1904, in which it is required to ascertain from the North American Commercial Co. its expenditures for maintaining schools for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904, I beg to state that the agent of the company on the island of St. George has reported, in response to my inquiry on the subject, as follows, to wit:

Expense of coal for heating school building	$80.00
Repairs of building, labor, lumber, etc	100.50
Books, etc	15.63
Salary of teacher	780.00
Board, etc	364.00
Total	1,340.13

The agent states further that "all the above statements are incomplete, as the office has charges that do not appear on our books," meaning the office in San Francisco.

I have nothing to add to the statement save that the teacher, Mr. C. R. Edson, who is also the company's bookkeeper, appears to me to be a competent and efficient man.

Referring to that portion of department's letter of instructions of May 1, 1904, which requires a statement from the North American Commercial Co. showing the expenditures made by said company during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904, in providing medical attendance for the residents on the seal islands, I beg to present below the statement furnished by the company agent for this island, in reply to my request to him in the matter, viz:

Dispensary:	
Doctor's salary	$1,200.00
Board, etc., of doctor	364.00
Drugs expended	203.58
Total	1,767.58

"All the above statements are incomplete, as the office has charges that do not appear on our books."

The company's statement is all the information in my possession on the subject.

In compliance with that part of the letter of instructions of the department dated May 1, 1904, which directs that a statement of the North American Commercial Co. be furnished in which shall be shown the expenditures of said company in furnishing and keeping in proper repair the dwellings occupied by the natives on the seal islands, and a like statement of expenditures incurred by said company in maintaining a house of religious worship for the natives, I have respectfully to report that in response to

my request made to the company agent on St. George Island with respect to these two items, he has informed me that the expenditures for repairs to native dwelling houses have been about $5 for the year, which is considerably less in amount than the average annual cost of such repairs.

He stated further that the company has done nothing toward maintaining a house of religious worship for the natives.

The native church has been painted and kept in repair by the church authorities and the natives.

Referring to the requirement of department's letter of instructions of May 1, 1904, that a statement be obtained from the North American Commercial Co. showing the number of widows, orphans, and infirm natives cared for under the terms of its lease, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904, and the expenditures in making such provision, I present below the statement furnished upon my request by the company agent here:

Widows and orphans:

Number of persons, 18 for 2½ months.

Number of persons, 12 for 9½ months.

Average, a little over 13 individuals, $946.98.

"All the above statements are incomplete, as the office has charges that do not appear on our books."

I respectfully submit the above for the information of the department.

Yours, respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

W. I. LEMBKEY, Esq.,
Agent for Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Islands.

EXHIBIT No. 16.

Weights of sealskins, St. George Island, 1904.

Weights.	Number.	Weights.	Number.	Weights.	Number.
4¼ pounds	5	7 pounds	155	9¾ pounds	6
4½ pounds	4	7¼ pounds	80	10 pounds	2
4¾ pounds	12	7½ pounds	75	10¼ pounds	1
5 pounds	18	7¾ pounds	44	10½ pounds	4
5¼ pounds	42	8 pounds	58	10¾ pounds	1
5½ pounds	135	8¼ pounds	24	11 pounds	2
5¾ pounds	136	8½ pounds	18	11½ pounds	1
6 pounds	181	8¾ pounds	14	11¾ pounds	1
6¼ pounds	151	9 pounds	22		
6½ pounds	160	9¼ pounds	6	Total	1,502
6¾ pounds	133	9½ pounds	11		

EXHIBIT No. 17.

Daily counts of rookeries, St. George Island, season 1904.

NORTH ROOKERY.

Dates of count.	Harems.	Cows.	Bulls in place.	Idle bulls.	Bulls quitting.
June 10	.....	.....	107	.....	[1] 7
June 17	9	10	122	.....	1
June 23	45	93	80	.....	12
June 24	49	130	68	.....	20
June 26	59	281	68	.....	16
June 29	66	640	52	.....	[2] 9
July 2	92	1,415	32	.....	[3] 5
July 6	111	2,382	19	.....	[3] 1
July 8	117	2,825	.....	17	.....
July 12	128	3,133	.....	13	([3])

[1] These include young bulls or half bulls.
[2] Idle bulls with holustiak not counted this day.
[3] Several bulls in water.

Daily counts of rookeries, St. George Island, season 1904—Continued.

EAST CLIFFS.[1]

Dates of count.	Harems.	Cows.	Bulls in place.	Idle bulls.	Bulls quitting.
June 10			42		[2] 5
June 17	5	10	37		[2] 20
June 20	11	47	32		[2] 20
June 24	23	163	21		[2] 14
June 27	27	313	16		[2] 20
June 29	35	522	13		[2] 15
July 2	38	941	14		[2] 9
July 4	40	1,090	6		[2] 16
July 7	40	1,432			[2] 15
July 9	49	1,422		11	[3]
July 13	50	1,486		17	[3]

EAST REEF.

June 10			16		[4] 3
June 17			20		[4] 7
June 20			20		[4] 6
June 24	12	19	9		[4] 4
June 27	16	41	5		[4] 3
June 29	20	63	2		[4] 2
July 2	19	138	2		[4] 2
July 4	18	213			[4] 7
July 7	20	337			[4] 1
July 9	21	381		3	
July 13	20	395		1	

LITTLE EAST.

June 10			16		
June 17			17		
June 20	4	4	13		
June 24	10	17	7		
June 27	10	23	7		1
June 29	14	60	4		
July 2	15	138	2		1
July 4	16	210	2		1
July 7	17	313		2	
July 9	17	351		3	
July 13 [5]	18	320		1	

[1] Cliffs very difficult to count; cows lie in among the rocks; count is generally under rather than over.
[2] These at hauling grounds of the holustiak.
[3] Four in place on rookery at holustiak ground.
[4] At the hauling ground.
[5] Harems disintegrating.

Staraya Artel Rookery.—The harems on this rookery are so massed together that it is impossible to get among them for counting. An attempt was made on June 13 to count the harems and cows, and 39 harems were found, estimated to contain 1,600 to 1,700 cows. There were 14 idle bulls.

Zapadni Rookery.—This rookery is in the same case as Staraya Artel last mentioned. The harems are very much massed. On July 14 tried to count harems and cows. I counted fairly well 28 harems, in which were found 1,162 cows. There were 56 bulls with harems. Giving to the remaining 28 harems a number of cows equal to those in the 28 actually counted, we have 2,324 cows all told, which is the best estimate to be made under existing conditions. There were 14 idle bulls.

Recapitulation.

	Harems.	Cows.	Idle bulls.
North Rookery	128	3,133	13
East Reef Cliffs	50	1,486	17
East Reef	21	395	3
Little East	18	351	1
Staraya Artel	39	1,650	14
Zapadni	56	2,324	14
Aggregates	312	9,339	62

EXHIBIT No. 18.

Rookery counts of live pups, dead pups, cows, etc.

Date of count.	Name of rookeries.	Number of—		Number of dead—	
		Live pups.	Dead pups.	Cows.	Bulls.
July 28	Zapadni	3,151	82	4	2
31	Little East	540	6	(1)	.....
31	East Reef	662	5	1	.....
31	East Cliffs	2,291	45	4	.....
Aug. 1	North	4,284	101	2	.....
1	Staraya Artel	2,384	32	1	.....
	Total	13,312	271	12	2

[1] Falling off is very startling.

The counting of East Cliffs is always unsatisfactory. The rocks under which the pups lie or hide themselves are close to the earth, while at the same time large, so that the refugees are difficult to reach. The count is apt to be under rather than over the true number. A few new-born pups were seen on each rookery.

Very little trouble from bulls was met with

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

AUGUST, 1904.

EXHIBIT No. 19.

St. George Island, Alaska, foxing season of 1903–4.

No. of trapping.	Place.	Date.	Killed.		White.	Branded.		Recaught.		Remarks.
			Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
		1903.								
First	Fox house	Nov. 22	50	39	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	Cool, favorable weather.
Second	do	Nov. 29	25	20	2	24	19	2	....	
Third	do	Dec. 6	....	.....	.....	18	17	3	3	High tide.
Fourth	do	Dec. 10	17	4	2	37	35	33	32	Sloppy.
Fifth	do	Dec. 14	2	....	2	5	8	19	11	Good weather.
Sixth	do	Dec. 18	4	....	2	25	15	39	31	Do.
Seventh	Fox house	Dec. 21	2	....	....	12	16	50	51	Weather cold and high wind.
	Village		....	1	....	29	34			
Eighth	Fox house	Dec. 23	7	2	1	7	10	51	52	
	Village		12	9	....	4	4			
Ninth	Fox house	Dec. 27	5	6	....	5	6	48	38	
	Village		7	19	....	2	8			
Tenth	Fox house	Dec. 29	12	27	....	14	25	63	65	
	Village		18	25	....	4	3			
		1904.								
Eleventh	Fox house	Jan. 1	2	2	1	3	3	29	24	
	Village		5	6	....	1	....			
Twelfth	Fox house	Jan. 4	....	.....	.....	3	3	24	25	
	Village		5	7	....	1	....			
Thirteenth	Fox house	Jan. 8	....	.....	.....	2	3	....	....	
	Village		3	3	.....	.....	.....			
Fourteenth	Fox house	Jan. 10	....	6	1	3	1	17	15	
	Village		....	6	....	10	....			
Fifteenth	Fox house	Jan. 11	13	7	....	8	10	54	58	
	Village		1	.....	.....	.....	.....			
Sixteenth	Fox house	Jan. 12	4	11	1	8	9	65	63	
	Village		6	8	.....	.....	.....			
Seventeenth	Fox house	Jan. 14	4	5	....	7	9	52	49	
	Village		2	5	.....	.....	.....			
Eighteenth	Fox house	Jan. 15	1	3	....	3	4	18	20	Weather mild-calm. 32°.
	Village		....	.....	.....	3	4			
Nineteenth	Fox house	Jan. 19	....	6	....	3	5	25	20	The females killed were toothless. Weather, mild-windy.
	Village		2	1	....	3	2			

St. George Island, Alaska, foxing season of 1903–4—Continued.

No. of trapping.	Place.	Date.	Killed.		White.	Branded.		Recaught.		Remarks.
			Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Twentieth	Fox house	1904. Jan. 20	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	
	Village		...	...	...	1	...			
Twenty-first	Fox house	Jan. 21	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	
	Village		...	...	...	2	3			
Twenty-second	Fox house	Jan. 22	...	1	...	8	2	60	65	
	Village		...	1	...	2	8			
Twenty-third	Fox house	Jan. 23	3	6	...	10	2	[1] 77	....	
	Village		...	...	...	...	...			
Twenty-fourth	Fox house	Jan. 24	...	3	1	5	5	[1] 58	....	
	Village		1	1	...	...	3			
Twenty-fifth	Fox house	Jan. 25	...	5	1	2	3	[1] 87	....	
	Village		1	...	...	3	...			
Twenty-sixth	Fox house	Jan. 27	1	...	...	...	1	[1] 32	....	
	Village		1	3	...	2	...			
Twenty-seventh	Fox house	Jan. 28	1	...	...	2	2	[1] 10	....	
	Village		...	1	...	1	...			
Twenty-eighth	Fox house	Jan. 29	2	1	....	1	1	....	....	
	Village									
Total			219	250	15	284	286	....	....	

[1] Sex not ascertained.

NOTE.—Three were found dead or killed outside of traps and skins taken. One found dead after trapping ended, with a good skin. All foxes killed in the later trappings were old. One blue fox found dead after ending of season included. The total number of blue-fox skins secured is 471; the total number of white-fox skins secured is 15; total, 486.

EXHIBIT No. 20.

Census of St. George Island, Alaska, June 30, 1904.

No. of family.	No. of person.	Name of individual.	Family relation.	Ages.		When born.
				Male.	Female.	
1	1	Galanin, Evan	Husband	22		Sept. 30, 1881
	2	Galanin, Anna	Wife		22	1881
	3	Galanin, Akalina	Mother		42	1862
	4	Galanin, Alexander	Brother	18		Sept. 11, 1885
	5	Galanin, George	Son	1		June 8, 1903
2	6	Gorokoff, Corneil	Husband [1]	48		May 31, 1856
	7	Gorokoff, Martha	Wife [1]		34	1870
	8	Oustigoff, Alexandra	Stepdaughter		11	May 2, 1893
	9	Oustigoff, Stepanida	do		9	Nov. 23, 1894
3	10	Lekanoff, Stepan	Husband	34		Nov. 9, 1869
	11	Lekanoff, Pelagia	Wife		34	Oct. 20, 1869
	12	Lekanoff, Anatoli	Son	14		Apr. 13, 1890
	13	Lekanoff, Sergius	do	12		Oct. 6, 1891
	14	Lekanoff, Sara	Daughter		10	Aug. 30, 1893
	15	Lekanoff, Marina	do		9	Mar. 7, 1895
	16	Lekanoff, George	Son	7		Apr. 7, 1897
4	17	Lestenkoff, Dimitri	Husband	42		May 27, 1862
	18	Lestenkoff, Alexandra	Wife		25	May 5, 1879
	19	Lestenkoff, Elizabeth	Mother		69	Sept. 16, 1834
	20	Lestenkoff, Constantine	Son	5		Sept. 29, 1898
	21	Merculioff, Marke	Foster son	19		Apr. 10, 1885
	22	Diakanoff, Katie	Niece		15	Nov. 26, 1888
5	23	Lestenkoff, Michael	Husband	31		Oct. 12, 1872
	24	Lestenkoff, Oulita	Wife		34	Oct. 20, 1869
	25	Lestenkoff, Innokenty	Son	7		Sept. 25, 1896
	26	Lestenkoff, Anna	Daughter		5	Sept. 30, 1898
6	27	Malavansky, Nicolai	Husband	39		Dec. 18, 1864
	28	Malavansky, Fedosia	Wife		23	Apr. 15, 1881
7	29	Merculioff, Evan	Husband	28		Jan. 31, 1876
	30	Merculioff, Natalia	Wife		23	Sept. 9, 1880

[1] This couple married on Aug. 9, 1903.

Census of St. George Island, Alaska, June 30, 1904—Continued.

No. of family.	No. of person.	Name of individual.	Family relation.	Ages.		When born.
				Male.	Female.	
	31	Merculioff, George	Husband	30		Nov. 15, 1873
	32	Merculioff, Stepanida	Wife		25	Dec. 21, 1878
	33	Merculioff, Peter	Son	5		July 10, 1899
8	34	Merculioff, Sophia	Daughter		2	Sept. 29, 1901
	35	Merculioff, George, jr	Son	1		Apr. 29, 1903
	36	Merculioff, Martha [1]	Sister		11	July 8, 1893
	37	Merculioff, Joseph	Husband	32		Mar. 17, 1872
	38	Merculioff, Marvara	Wife		25	May 14, 1879
9	39	Merculioff, John [2]	Brother	14		Jan. 18, 1890
	40	Merculioff, Helena [2]	Sister		20	May 27, 1884
	41	Merculioff, Nicolai	Husband	24		May 19, 1880
	42	Merculioff, Matrona	Wife		21	Jan. 2, 1883
10	43	Merculioff, Lavrenty	Son	1		Sept. 8, 1902
	44	Merculioff, Gavril	do	3 mo.		Apr. 8, 1904
	45	Nedarazoff, Nicolai	Bachelor	26		Dec. 18, 1877
11	46	Nedarazoff, Efghenia	Mother		50	Jan. 5, 1854
	47	Nedarazoff, Isidor	Brother	13		Feb. 15, 1891
	48	Philimonoff, Andronic	Husband	37		Oct. 24, 1867
	49	Philimonoff, Zenobia	Wife		37	Nov. 12, 1866
	50	Philimonoff, Marina	Daughter		14	May 12, 1890
12	51	Philimonoff, Leonti	Son	10		May 6, 1894
	52	Philimonoff, Alexandra	Daughter		8	Apr. 25, 1896
	53	Philimonoff, Andronic, jr	Son	5		Oct. 18, 1898
	54	Philimonoff, Eoff	do	2		June 8, 1902
	55	Philimonoff, Gregory	Husband	31		Oct. 12, 1872
	56	Philimonoff, Malania	Wife		30	Jan. 12, 1874
13	57	Philimonoff, Dimitri	Brother	18		May 25, 1886
	58	Nozekoff, Paul	Nephew	8		July 11, 1896
	59	Oustigoff, Anfessia [2]	Foster child		9	Apr. 21, 1895
	60	Philimonoff, Simeon	Husband	53		Aug. 3, 1850
	61	Philimonoff, Evadotia	Wife		33	Feb. 28, 1871
	62	Philimonoff, Zoya	Daughter		11	Nov. 12, 1892
	63	Philimonoff, Joseph	Son	10		Feb. 4, 1894
14	64	Philimonoff, Ignati	do	4		Dec. 23, 1899
	65	Philimonoff, Julia	Daughter		2	Mar. 12, 1902
	66	Philimonoff, Helena	do		3 mo.	Apr. 10, 1904
	67	Philimonoff, Pelagia [2]	Granddaughter		16	Oct. 19, 1887
	68	Prokopioff, Peter	Husband	40		May 29, 1864
	69	Prokopioff, Stepanida	Wife		27	Nov. 18, 1876
	70	Prokopioff, Martha	Daughter		8	Mar. 8, 1896
15	71	Prokopioff, Marina	do		6	Mar. 5, 1898
	72	Prokopioff, Alexander	Son	2		May 1, 1902
	73	Prokopioff, Lavrenty	do	10 mo.		Aug. 30, 1903
	74	Shane, Michael	Bachelor	16		Oct. 13, 1887
16	75	Shane, Raiessa	Mother		52	1852
	76	Merculioff, Stepan	Cousin	13		Sept. 27, 1890
	77	Swetzoff, Gregory	Bachelor	18		Nov. 29, 1885
	78	Swetzoff, Paul	Cousin	11		July 8, 1892
17	79	Galanin, Fevronia	Widow and cousin.		27	June 25, 1877
	80	Zacharoff, Emanuel	Husband	24		July 1, 1880
18	81	Zacharoff, Mary	Wife		30	Apr. 1, 1874
	82	Zacharoff, Daria	Daughter		2	Apr. 2, 1902
	83	Zacharoff, Stepan	Son	6 mo.		Jan. 8, 1904
	84	Malavansky, Ripsimia [2]	Spinster		46	1858
	85	Malavansky, Peter [2]	Son	16		Jan. 22, 1888
19	86	Malavansky, Wassie [2]	Spinster		29	Aug. 14, 1874
	87	Malavansky, Christopher [2]	Son	Inf.		June 8, 1904
	88	Philimonoff, Foekla [2]	Foster child		9	Oct. 2, 1894
20	89	Merculioff, Wassalis [2]	Widow		53	Jan. 20, 1851
	90	Merculioff, Alexandra [2]	Daughter		26	Apr. 22, 1878
		PRIEST'S FAMILY.				
	91	Kashivaroff, Peter (priest)	Husband	47		Mar. 3, 1857
	92	Kashivaroff, Anna	Wife		39	Jan. 17, 1865
	93	Kashivaroff, Walter	Son	17		July 2, 1887
	94	Pavloff, Katrina	Niece		10	Dec. 2, 1893
	95	Riazanzoff, Serefina	Orphan		17	July 1, 1887
		RESIDING ELSEWHERE.				
		Malavansky, Cleopatra	Daughter of Ripsimia.		21	Oct. 31, 1882

[1] Clothing furnished by the North American Commercial Co.
[2] Supported by the North American Commercial Co.

RECAPITULATION.

Number of native inhabitants at last preceding census, including priest's family	92
Increase by births during past year	6
Decrease by deaths during past year	3
Actual number of native residents	95

SUMMARY.

Number of native families	21
Number of native individuals	95
Number of native males	48
Number of native females	47
Number of native males 16 years old or over	24
Number of native males between 6 and 13 years old	11
Number of native males under 6 years old	13
Number of native females 16 years old or over	28
Number of native females between 16 and 6 years old	14
Number of native females under 6 years old	5
Number of males of school age	11
Number of females of school age	14

The number of families wholly supported by the company is one. One other family partially supported by the company. Peter Malavansky, now become a sealer, will be furnished food by the company until September 1. Eight individuals are now wholly supported by the company and four clothed only.

Government agents and company employees.—Ezra W. Clark, assistant agent in charge; H. D. Chichester, assistant agent; Mrs. Ezra W. Clark; Dr. L. A. Noyes, company agent; Henry E. Routh, bookkeeper; J. A. Lake, clerk; Clinton R. Edson, school-teacher; Gee Ho, Chinese cook.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the census of St. George Island, Alaska, as made by me on June 30, 1904.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge, St. George Island.

EXHIBIT No. 21.

Seal division, St. George Island, 1904.

By 1,996 sealskins, at 50 cents each	$998.00
To 14 men of class 1, at $43.95 each	615.30
To 5 men of class 2, at $35.15 each	175.75
To 5 men of class 3, at $26.40 each	132.00
To 2 men of special class, at $40 and $34.95	74.95
	998.00

First-class shares.—Fourteen men at $49.35 each, as follows: Corneil Gorokoff, Peter Kashivaroff (priest), Stepan Lekanoff, Dimitri Lestenkoff, Michael Lestenkoff, Nickolai Malavansky, George Merculioff, Joseph Merculioff, Nicolai Merculioff, Andronic Philimonoff, Gregory Philimonoff, Simeon Philimonoff, Peter Prokopioff, Emanuel Zacharoff.

Second-class shares.—Five men, at $35.15 each, as follows: Evan Galanin, Evan Merculioff, Nicolai Niderezoff, Michael Shane, Gregory Swetzoff.

Third-class shares.—Five men, at $26.40 each, as follows: Alexander Galanin, Walter Kashivaroff, Peter Malavansky, Marka Merculioff, and Dimitri Philimonoff.

Special-class shares.—Two men, as follows: Stepan Lekanoff, extra as chief, $40; Joseph Merculioff, extra as second chief, $34.95.

The foregoing seal division was duly made, and has been placed to the credit, on the books of the North American Commercial Co., of the natives as designated respectively.

(Signed) EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.
Dr. L. A. NOYES,
Agent North American Commercial Co.
STEPAN LEKANOFF,
Chief.
JOSEPH MERCULIOFF,
Second Chief.

Exhibit No. 22.

Fox division, St. George Island, Alaska, made June 1, 1904.

By 471 blue-fox skins, at $5 each	$2,355.00
By 15 white-fox skins, at $1 each	15.00
	2,370.00
To allowance to hydrant keeper	5.00
To chief for extra labor	30.00
To second chief for extra labor	25.00
	60.00

First-class shares.—Thirteen men at $116.65 each, as follows: Corneil Gorokoff, Stepan Lekanoff, Dimitri Lestenkoff, Michael Lestenkoff, Nicolai Malavansky, George Merculioff, Joseph Merculioff, Nicolai Merculioff, Andronic Philimonoff, Gregory Philimonoff, Simeon Philimonoff, Peter Prokopioff, Peter Kashivaroff (priest).

Second-class shares.—Four men at $93.40 each, as follows: Evan Galanin, Evan Merculioff, Nicolai Niderezoff, Emanuel Zacharoff.

Third-class shares.—Six men at $70 each, as follows: Alexander Galanin, Walter Kashivaroff, Marka Merculioff, Dimitri Philimonoff, Michael Shane, Gregory Swetzoff.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript of the fox division as made on June 1, 1904, and that the amounts as designated have been placed to the credit of the natives respectively designated on the North American Commercial Co.'s books.

Ezra W. Clark,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

Exhibit No. 23.

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. George Island for food of natives.

Date.	Rookeries.	Large young seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by lessees.
1903.				
Oct. 19	Staraya Artel	40	40	40
20	North	68	68	68
21	Zapadni, watchmen	2	2	2
22	East	26	26	26
24	Zapadni	6	6	6
26	Staraya Artel	36	36	36
29	North	82	82	82
31	East	61	61	61
Nov. 2	Staraya Artel	2	2	2
4	Zapadni, watchmen	2	2	2
5	North	54	54	54
8	Zapadni	22	22	22
9	East	11	11	11
11	Staraya Artel	42	42	42
11	Zapadni, watchmen	2	2	2
16	....do	2	2	2
17	East and North	13	13	13
22	North	4	4	4
25	East	20	20	20
1904.				
May 31	Zapadni, watchmen	2	2	2

Two skins are to be deducted from the foregoing to meet discrepancy explained in note on general statement. The number killed for food is therefore 495.

The foregoing is correct.

Ezra W. Clark,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

EXHIBIT No. 24.

Memoranda of expenditures account natives St. George Island for eleven months, 1903–4.

Name of head of family.	Fox and seal division.	Government appropriation.	Total.
Alex. Galanin	$113.95		$113.95
Evan Galanin	158.00	$199.55	357.55
Corneil Gorokoff	197.38	195.30	392.68
Peter Kashivaeoff (priest)	197.38		197.38
Peter Kashivaeoff, jr	74.33		74.33
Walter Kashivaeoff	44.20	137.80	182.00
Stepan Lekanoff (chief)	267.39	300.35	567.74
Dimitri Lestenkoff	197.38	216.50	413.88
Mike Lestenkoff	197.38	125.75	323.13
George Merculioff	197.38	288.95	486.33
John Merculioff	157.00	135.00	292.00
Joseph Merculioff (second chief)	257.38	154.48	411.86
Marka Merculioff	118.20	6.00	124.20
Nicolai Malavansky	197.38	127.60	324.98
Nicolai Merculioff	197.38	157.65	355.03
Nicolai Niderezoff	158.00	169.65	327.65
Andronic Philimonoff	197.38	309.10	506.48
Dimitri Philimonoff	118.40	18.00	136.40
Gregory Philimonoff	197.38	121.05	318.43
Simeon Philimonoff	197.38	298.70	496.08
Peter Prokopioff	197.38	198.20	395.58
Michael Shane	44.20	256.92	301.12
Gregory Swetzoff	133.23	209.75	342.98
Emanuel Zacharoff	158.00	152.70	310.70
Peter Malavansky		9.05	9.05
Community fund		112.50	112.50
Total			7,874.01

EXHIBIT No. 25.

School report, St. George.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA,
April 29, 1904.

DEAR SIR: The following is offered as school report for the year 1903–4. A school has been furnished for the native children of St. George Island, as required by the lease of the North American Commercial Co., for eight months, beginning Tuesday, September 1, 1903, and closing Friday, April 29, 1904.

Twenty-five scholars have attended this school for the year excepting absences shown below, most of which were occasioned by the prevailing distemper among the natives during March and April.

Four of last year's pupils, being beyond the age of required attendance, did not return to the school in September, and their places were partially filled by two very promising beginners, George Lekanoff and Innokenty Lestenkoff, making the school smaller by two than last year.

The usual Christmas and church holidays were observed.

Number of boys attending school	12
Number of girls attending school	13
Total	25
Number of school weeks	35
Number of school days	174
Number of holidays observed	18
Number of days school was in session	156
Absences excused by doctor	days.. 84
Absences excused by Government agent	do.... $2\frac{1}{2}$
Absences unexcused	do.... $\frac{3}{5}$
Absences, total	88
Total attendance	3,812
Average daily attendance	$24\frac{68}{156}$

C. R. EDSON, *Teacher.*

Maj. E. W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge St. George Island.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1904.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries in Alaska,
725 Fourteenth Street NW., Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I return herewith vouchers for your salary from July 1, 1904, to August 31, 1904, inclusive. In your vouchers you have called this period three months and computed salary accordingly. As our summer days are not as long as the Alaska days, the disbursing clerk would probably disallow anything in excess of two months for the period above mentioned. Kindly submit corrected vouchers for approval.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
October 1, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: The following amount of coal will be required for use next year on the seal islands, to be shipped thereto in the spring of 1905:

	Tons.
St. Paul:	
Payable from natives' appropriation	100
Lease coal, free of cost	50
For Government house	15
	165
St. George:	
Payable from natives' appropriation	75
Lease coal, free of cost	30
For Government house	15
	120

The 175 tons chargeable to the natives' appropriation should be paid from the appropriation of 1905, a sufficient amount having been reserved therefrom to cover the cost of this amount of coal at $20 a ton.

It will be noted that an increase of 5 tons for each of the Government houses is asked for. The amount of 15 tons is, and has been, necessary to heat each Government house for a year. In years past, however, only 10 tons for this purpose has been sent. This has been placed, together with the natives' coal, in the Government coal house, and no special record kept of the amount used to heat the Government house. As 10 tons, however, is sufficient to heat the Government house for only eight months, I feel that an extra allowance should be made, payable from the appropriation for "Fuel, lights, and water," rather than to make up the deficiency with coal purchased out of the natives' fund.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
October 1, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I understand that the company's lease of the foxing privilege on the seal islands will expire this winter. If such is the case, I have to suggest that, in any new lease to be made, care be taken to allow the Government agent more direct supervision over the feeding and trapping of foxes than is now accorded him by the present lease.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA.
October 1, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: In view of the fact that the presence of all four Government agents is necessary in the conduct of the Government business on the seal islands during the sealing season, I have to request that Agents Clark and Chichester, in returning to the islands in the spring of 1905, be instructed to take passage on the company's vessel leaving San Francisco in May, so that they may arrive on the islands near the 1st of June. This request is made for the reason that, should they take passage on a revenue cutter, they are not likely to reach the islands before the middle of July, at a time when the season's work is practically over.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

NOVEMBER 7, 1904

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: Your three letters of the 1st ultimo, relating respectively to the foxing privilege on the seal islands, the return of Agents Clark and Chichester in 1905, and the coal supply for the islands during that year, have been received at this office.

Mr. Hitchcock will return to the department some time during the present month, when your letters will be brought to his attention.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, May 31, 1905.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt, in October last, of a letter dated August 29, 1904, from Mr. F. H. Bowen, acting chief clerk, inclosing for verification, so far as it relates to property in my possession, a statement from the War Department of ordnance and ordnance stores turned over to the Department of Commerce and Labor.

In reply, I have to return the inclosure mentioned, with the statement that the articles mentioned in the list as furnished to me, were all received, distributed between the two islands, and are at present there in good condition, with the exception of 900 cartridges, caliber .30, which were expended in target practice by the natives, 500 being so used on St. George under the direction of Assistant Agent Judge, and 400 on St. Paul under Assistant Agent Chichester and myself. This latter action was taken because of the unfamiliarity of the natives with the magazine rifle and the necessity for a knowledge of its action in case of emergency.

To meet this expenditure I have to request that the War Department be asked to furnish 1,000 additional cartridges, caliber .30, 500 to St. George and 500 to St. Paul.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. George Island, Territory of Alaska, October 5, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: In a letter received from Mr. Lembkey the 4th ultimo I was instructed to prepare, from the books in this office, lists of seals dismissed from the killing grounds during the past two sealing seasons. If it should appear doubtful whether such lists would reach St. Paul this fall, in time to be available for his report, I was to send the figures directly to you.

The contingency anticipated seems likely to occur, and I have therefore the honor to inclose herewith copies of the statistics for regular killings on St. George for the seasons of 1903 and 1904.

Very respectfully, yours,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

Statistics of regular killings for the quota, 1904.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

Date.	Rookeries.	Animals killed.	Dismissed.		
			Large.	Small.	Branded.
1904.	Sealskins on hand	498			
June 1	Staraya Artel	26	1	2	
7	do	5	2		
11	Zapadni, watchmen	2			
11	Staraya Artel and east	22	6		1
16	Staraya Artel and north	29	15	1	5
21	Zapadni	15	3		
23	North, east, and Staraya Artel	116	41		
28	do	209	25	74	106
30	Zapadni	92	15	47	13
July 2	North, east, and Staraya Artel	144	20	185	97
6	do	46	10	156	35
7	Zapadni	70	5	88	8
9	North, east, and Staraya Artel	66	1	236	39
13	do	73	5	304	59
14	Zapadni	18	3	40	8
16	North, east, and Staraya Artel	129	6	290	67
20	do	111	3	453	92
21	Zapadni	25	3	65	10
23	North, east, and Staraya Artel	99	4	258	47
26	do	93	6	518	75
28	Zapadni	23	2	129	20
30	North, east, and Staraya Artel	82	3	379	42
31	Zapadni (taken by chief)	5			
	Total	1,998	179	3,225	274
	Deduct on account error	2			
	Correct total	1,996			

NOTE 1.—The column marked "Branded" includes only the 2 and 3 year old bachelors that were branded on the head prior to the date indicated.

NOTE 2.—Seals bearing the St. Paul brand were found in every drive made in July. The aggregate of such was 100. The number in each drive varied between 1 and 16.

Statistics of regular killings for the quota, 1903.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

Date.	Rookeries.	Animals killed.	Dismissed.	
			Large.	Small.
1903.	Sealskins on hand	487		
June 2	North	31	4	3
9	North and Staraya Artel	23	6	2
13	East	42	6	
16	Staraya Artel	15	3	
20	East	12	8	
22	Zapadni	71	20	3
24	East and Staraya Artel	199	28	18
27	do	328	56	27
July 11	do	209	31	34
7	do	222	15	43
9	Zapadni and Staraya Artel	51	3	9
13	East and Staraya Artel	206	2	60
17	do	78	4	28
18	Zapadni	126	10	35
21	East and Staraya Artel	275	6	148
25	do	92	7	69
27	Zapadni	148	10	35
29	East and Staraya Artel	87	5	33
Aug. 3	Zapadni	99	8	40
4	Staraya Artel	134	9	32
7	Zapadni, watchmen	5		
8	Staraya Artel	152	13	56
	Total	3,092	254	675

NOVEMBER 7, 1904.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
St. George Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: Your letter to Mr. Hitchcock under date of the 5th ultimo, inclosing statements of the regular killing of seals on St. George Island during the seasons 1903 and 1904, has been received at this office.

Mr. Hitchcock will return to the department some time during the present month, when your letter will be brought to his attention.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OCTOBER 14, 1904.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
725 Fourteenth Street N W., Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith the vouchers for traveling expenses recently submitted by you, together with a memorandum of information desired by the disbursing clerk. I fail to find in the files of this office any copy of orders directing you to proceed to Alaska, and think these must have been issued by the Treasury Department.

Any assistance I can give you in reference to this matter will be cheerfully rendered.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OCTOBER 21, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of September 9, 1904, transmitting the stubs of orders for supplies to natives issued on the North American Commercial Co. during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1904, will be referred to the disbursing clerk for attention.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, October 25, 1904.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Special Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries,
725 Fourteenth Street N W., Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: This office is in receipt of information from the Auditor for the State and Other Departments under date of October 19 that a warrant will be issued in your favor for the sum of $634.47 for salary as special agent from May 1 to June 30, 1903, and for traveling expenses, April, May, and June, 1903. The notice states that you will call in person for the warrant.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

NOVEMBER 23, 1904.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
1517 Rhode Island Avenue NW., Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I shall be obliged if you will be good enough to call at the department, at your convenience, for the purpose of furnishing the disbursing clerk with information relative to certain portions of the accounts of the North American Commercial Co. which are under examination.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

PART II. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO REVENUE-CUTTER PATROL.

APRIL 18, 1904.

SIR: With further reference to your letter of the 6th instant, I have the honor to request that one of the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service be detailed, in accordance with the practice that has obtained for several years past, to patrol the waters of Bering Sea during the coming season with the object of enforcing the regulations relative to the pelagic hunting of fur seals.

Respectfully,

GEO. B. CORTELYOU,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, April 25, 1904.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: 1. In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, requesting that a vessel of the Revenue-Cutter Service be detailed to patrol the waters of Bering Sea during the coming season, with the object of enforcing the regulations in relation to the pelagic hunting of fur seals, I have the honor to state that the President has designated the U. S. S. *Bear*, now at San Francisco, for this duty, from May 10 to September 10, 1904, and it is expected that said vessel will be ready to sail by the 10th proximo.

Respectfully,

L. M. SHAW,
Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 20, 1904.

Mr. FRANK H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR: 1. Referring to my phone message of yesterday, and to the letter received from Secretary Cortelyou this morning, in relation to the orders to the *Bear*, I inclose herewith the orders referred to, and have to request that you obtain the signature of

Secretary Cortelyou to the approval of the same and return them to me as soon as possible.

2. There are also inclosed, for the files of your office, carbon copies of these orders, and also Regulations, Fur Seal Fishing, 1902 (the latest published), and a pamphlet containing acts of Congress, acts of Parliament, etc., in relation to fur-seal fishing.

3. I would suggest that if you intend to issue any additional instructions that action be taken without delay, as the *Bear* should leave San Francisco at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully, yours,

C. F. SHOEMAKER,
Captain, Revenue-Cutter Service, Chief of Division.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 20, 1904.

Capt. O. D. MYRICK, R. C. S.,
Commanding U. S. S. Bear,
San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: 1. You are informed that the President has designated the *Bear*, under your command, to patrol the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea until September 10 next, for the purpose of enforcing the act of Congress approved December 29, 1892, and the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration decreed the 15th of August, 1893 (copies inclosed).

2. Under the provisions of the act of Congress above referred to, it is unlawful for any citizen or vessel of the United States to engage in pelagic sealing at any time or in any manner in the waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude, in the Bering Sea, and the Sea of Okhotsk. You are therefore directed to seize any vessel of the United States found navigating the sea as above indicated, in violation of the law, and send the same to the nearest or most accessible port of the United States, upon arrival there to be surrendered to the custody of competent authority having jurisdiction.

3. Since, under the enactment by Congress above referred to and given in full in the "Regulations, Fur-Seal Fishing Season of 1902" (which apply to the present season), vessels of the United States are prohibited absolutely from engaging in fur-seal fishing within the geographical limits prescribed, it follows that the "Regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration" (given in full herewith) are applicable only to British vessels, and that fur-seal fishing is prohibited to subjects of Great Britain at any time or in any manner within a zone of 60 geographic miles around the Pribilof Islands, inclusive of territorial waters, and from May 1 to July 31, in that part of the Pacific Ocean inclusive of Bering Sea situated north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and eastward of the one hundred and eightieth degree of longitude from Greenwich, until it strikes the water boundary described in article 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Bering Straits.

4. You will arrange with the senior British naval officer at Unalaska engaged in carrying out the provisions of the award for the mutual delivery of vessels of the one country seized by officers of the other.

5. You will be governed by the following instructions while cruising for the enforcement of fur-seal regulations:

(*a*) The terms of the award apply only to vessels of the United States and Great Britain. The first duty of the boarding officer is to satisfy himself by an inspection of her documents as to the vessel's nationality. Vessels boarded beyond the legal jurisdiction of the United States and found to be of a nationality not included in the award are not to be searched or detained longer than is necessary to establish the fact.

(*b*) Long chases are not advisable. After a vessel is brought within reach of your guns, if she does not bring to, display the national ensign and open fire. Fire one blank and one solid shot as a warning. If she still neglects to come to the wind, aim to hit, and use the force at your command to compel her to submit to being boarded and searched.

(*c*) A mere cursory or perfunctory search of vessels boarded is strictly forbidden. The search must be made by two commissioned officers, or one commissioned and one petty officer and the necessary number of men who are required to remain on board until every part of the vessel where a sealskin or a shotgun or rifle could be concealed has been searched.

(*d*) Boarding officers are required to exercise courtesy and forbearance and avoid all discussions. Offensive remarks or actions by members of the crew or others on board the vessel being searched are under no circumstances to be taken notice of.

(*e*) Should a sealskin be found on board that bears satisfactory evidence of having been shot within the Bering Sea, or killed in any manner within the area of the award in the Pacific Ocean between April 30 and August 1, or within 60 miles of the Pribilof Islands, at any time, the vessel must be seized.

(*f*) Any vessel of Great Britain found within the area of the award during the closed season engaged in fur-seal fishing or fitted for fur-seal fishing, and not being provided with the special sealing license, is ordered seized. Or if any licensed vessel shall be found within the area of the award during the closed season, having on board a seal-hunting outfit suitable for taking seal, but forbidden then and there to be used, she is ordered seized.

(*g*) Only sailing vessels are permitted to engage in fur-seal fishing during the period of time and in the waters in which fur-seal fishing is allowed. Any vessel propelled in whole or in part by steam or other motive power than sail, found so engaged, is ordered seized.

(*h*) If a vessel which appears to be a sealing vessel is found within the area of the award during the periods of time in which fur-seal fishing is forbidden, you will ascertain whether she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing; whether she was carried there by stress of weather, by a mistake during foggy or thick weather, or is there in the ordinary course of navigation, making the best of her way to any place. You must judge whether such vessel has been engaged in fur-seal fishing from the presence of sealskins or bodies of seals on board, or salt, and from other circumstances and indications.

(*i*) If such vessel is found outside of the area of the award, and it is evident that she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing within said area, and has thus committed an offense, you will seize her. A vessel may violate the law by her boats fur-seal fishing within said area, while the vessel herself is outside of said area.

(*j*) When you make a seizure, you will, at the time thereof, draw up a declaration in writing, stating the conditions of the seized vessel, the date, and exact place of seizure, giving latitude and longitude, and any additional data by which exact location may be determined and circumstances showing guilt. Arms or skins found (the cause of seizure), as well as all papers, must be examined on board the seized vessel, and so marked as to be readily identified by the boarding officers when produced in court or elsewhere. This is important and must not be neglected.

(*k*) The seized vessel will be taken or sent, as soon as practicable, with all persons on board thereof, in charge of a sufficient force to insure delivery, together with witnesses and proofs, and the declaration of the officer making the seizure, if American, to the most convenient port of California, Oregon, Washington, or Alaska, and delivered to the officers of the United States court; and if British, to Unalaska, and there delivered to the senior British naval officer present, or taken to the most convenient port in British Columbia and delivered to the proper authorities of Great Britain, or deliver her to the commanding officer of any British vessel authorized to receive her.

(*l*) A signed and certified list of papers of the seized vessel will be delivered to the master thereof, and a duplicate copy transmitted with the declaration.

(*m*) Any British vessel boarded and found not to be subject to seizure will be furnished with a copy of the fur-seal regulations.

(*n*) Each vessel so boarded shall be given a written certificate showing the date and place of examination, the number of fur-seal skins and the number of bodies of seals on board. A duplicate of said certificate shall be preserved.

(*o*) Herewith are transmitted five copies of the regulations governing vessels employed in fur-seal fishing during the season of 1902, with act of Congress referred to attached.

Respectfully,

(Signed) R. B. ARMSTRONG,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, May 20, 1904.

Approved in accordance with the provisions of my letter of the 19th instant.

(Signed) GEO. B. CORTELYOU,
Secretary.

MAY 20, 1904.

Capt. C. F. SHOEMAKER,
Chief, Division of Revenue-Cutter Service, Treasury Department.

DEAR SIR: The three letters signed by Assistant Secretary Armstrong under date of May 20, embodying the orders to the revenue-cutter *Bear* relative to the patrol of Bering Sea to enforce the fur-seal

regulations during the present season, were received this afternoon with your note of the same date.

Secretary Cortelyou has indorsed his approval on each of the three letters of instructions, and I am now returning them to you herewith for transmission to the commanding officer of the *Bear*.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

PART III. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO SUPPLIES.

JUNE 4, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: There will be forwarded to-day by Adams Express to the revenue cutter *Perry*, care of the Seattle Hardware Co., Seattle, Wash., for shipment to the seal islands, two Carlton camera outfits, each consisting of the articles described below, and also 20 dozen 8 by 10 Cramer crown plates.

The two camera outfits are put up in separate boxes, one of them being addressed to you at St. Paul Island and the other to the department agents on St. George Island. The plates are also packed in two boxes containing 10 dozen each, one of the boxes being addressed to St. Paul Island and the other to St. George Island.

I trust the fullest possible use will be made of these cameras at the height of the season, in order to obtain photographic records illustrating the condition of the rookeries on the two islands.

I shall send a line to Assistant Agent Chichester, St. George Island, advising him of the shipment of the camera and plates to be used on that island and requesting him to take photographs of the rookeries at the height of the season. You may find it feasible to secure Mr. Chichester's services for a few days to assist in taking the photographs on St. Paul, but of course that should not be done if it will seriously interfere with his more imperative duties on St. George.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

(1 Carlton camera, 8 by 10, with tripod; 6 plate holders, 8 by 10; 1 focusing cloth; 1 Bausch & Lomb-Zeiss convertible anastigmat No. 18 lens; 1 B. & L. iris diaphragm shutter; 1 color screen.)

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE OF
SEAL FISHERIES, ALASKA,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have your letter of the 4th ultimo, which arrived yesterday by the *Thetis*, informing me that two camera outfits have been forwarded, one for use on St. Paul and the other on St. George in photographing the seal rookeries.

The outfit for St. Paul Island contained the articles mentioned in your letter, with the possible exception that the lens received stated in your letter to be a "Bausch & Lomb-Zeiss Convertable Anastigmat, No. 18," but which appears to be a "Bausch & Lomb-Zeiss Protar, Series VII," may be a different article from that described in your letter. I have already stated that the lens received appears to contain certain defects in casting which ought not to be present in a high-priced lens.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE OF
SEAL FISHERIES, ALASKA,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt yesterday by the *Thetis* of a letter from Mr. Frank H. Bowen, acting chief, division of supplies, inclosing for my signature invoices of certain supplies furnished the islands of St. Paul and St. George for official use, and to return the invoices properly signed, with the information that the supplies enumerated thereon have all been received in good condition.

I desire to state, however, that I can not identify the lens furnished for use with the Carlton camera on this island as a "Bausch & Lomb convertible anastigmat No. 18." It is marked "Zeiss Protar, Series VII." It has an air bubble, due probably to a defect in casting, half as large as a pin head, which, in my judgment, should not appear in such a high-priced lens.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

OCTOBER 17, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter of July 28 last to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, returning, without signature, three invoices, dated June 9, 1904, of supplies sent you and stating that the articles listed thereon have been received in good condition. Note is made of your further statement that you can not identify the lens furnished with the Carlton camera as the one described by the department.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

JUNE 4, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: I am forwarding by Adams Express to-day to the revenue cutter *Perry*, care of the Seattle Hardware Co., Seattle, Wash., for shipment to you at the seal islands, one Remington typewriter No. 7,

elite type, 90-scale, with blue copying ribbon, and also, in a separate box, the following equipment and supplies therefor:

1 typewriter cover, rubber.
6 typewriter ribbons, Paragon, Remington, blue copying.
3 typewriter ribbons, Paragon, Remington, black record.
100 sheets carbon paper, cap size.
1 ream typewriter paper, thin, 8 by 12½.
1 ream typewriter paper, thick, 8 by 10½.
1 steel eraser, bone handle.
3 typewriter erasers, disk.
2 bottles typewriter oil.
1 typewriter brush, long handle, Fitch.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE OF
ALASKA SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 4th of June last, notifying me of the shipment by the revenue cutter *Perry* of a Remington typewriter No. 7, elite type, 90-scale, for official use on this island, reached me yesterday by the *Thetis.*

By the same vessel came also the machine in question and, in a separate box, all of the typewriting supplies detailed in your letter as having been shipped also.

The machine is a welcome addition to the office equipment of this island, and its receipt is acknowledged with thanks.

The old typewriting machine which I had here has been presented to Agent Judge, who will take it to St. George for use in that office.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

OCTOBER 17, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter of July 28 last to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, stating that the new No. 7 Remington typewriter sent you has been delivered and that the old machine has been given to Agent Judge for use in his office on St. George Island.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

JUNE 4, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: I am shipping to-day, by Adams Express, the clipping apparatus that is to be used experimentally in marking the 2-year-old and 3-year-old seals the department plans to reserve from the

killing. The apparatus is being sent to Seattle, care of the Seattle Hardware Co., and will be forwarded to the islands on the revenue cutter *Perry*, which is expected to sail on or about June 15. With the clipper, which has been carefully crated, I am sending a truck on which it can be mounted while in use. An iron collar with four attachment braces has been made to hold the clipper in position on the truck. The attachment device should be bolted firmly to the platform of the truck and the vertical support of the clipper inserted in the collar and adjusted at the proper height by means of the lateral screw. The cutting portion of the clipper, with several extra blades, will be found in a small box inclosed in the crate. You will also find in the crate a small can of oil for use in lubricating the flexible shaft of the clipper.

The two additional 5-foot sections of flexible shaft that were specially ordered to send with the clipper have not been delivered as yet, but they are expected to arrive in the course of a day or two. As soon as received they will be forwarded separately by express.

The truck that is being shipped to you is what is known as pork truck, style 395, manufactured by the George P. Clark Co., Windsor Locks, Conn. It is rather heavy, but a lighter one with sufficient strength could not be procured in time for shipment on the *Perry*. The present one has been lightened somewhat by cutting off about a foot and a half of the forward portion of the frame.

The clipper was made by the Coates Clipper Co., Worcester, Mass., and is known as the Winner, No. 499, Standard Power Clipper.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE OF
ALASKA SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of June 4 last, stating that a clipping apparatus and truck have been forwarded to this island for use in marking the seals to be reserved under department's instructions.

I have to state also that the articles mentioned in your letter arrived coincidently on the *Thetis*, in first-class condition, save that the extra set of blades for the clipper were badly rusted.

The machine has been set up and used successfully in cutting the hair of several of the residents of this island. As our full quota of branded seals was obtained on June 25, it will not be possible to give the machine much use this year, but an attempt will be made to-morrow morning to use it on seals rejected from a drive.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

OCTOBER 17, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter of July 28 last to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, stating that the clipping apparatus and truck forwarded to the islands have been received.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

JUNE 4, 1904.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent for Seal Islands,
St. George Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: By the revenue cutter *Perry*, which is expected to sail from Seattle on or about the 15th instant, there will be shipped to St. George Island one Carlton 8 by 10 camera outfit and 10 dozen 8 by 10 Cramer crown plates for use in photographing the rookeries. It is the desire of the department to obtain a series of photographs illustrating as fully as practicable the condition of the various rookeries on St. Paul Island and St. George Island during the height of the present season, and you are requested to use your best efforts to accomplish this purpose as far as the island of St. George is concerned.

A similar camera outfit and a like number of plates will be sent at the same time to Agent Lembkey, St. Paul Island, and it is possible he may require your services for a few days to assist in photographing the rookeries on that island; but this is a matter that will be left to his judgment.

While it is desirable to have the work of photographing the rookeries made as thorough as feasible, it should not be allowed to interfere with the more imperative duties the department agents are expected to perform under the general instructions for the present season.

The camera outfit that is being shipped to St. George Island is as follows:

1 Carlton camera, 8 by 10, with tripod.
6 plate holders, 8 by 10.
1 focusing cloth.
1 Bausch & Lomb Zeiss convertible anastigmat No. 18 lens.
1 B. & L. iris diaphragm shutter.
1 color screen.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, June 9, 1904.

Department Agents, Seal Fisheries,
St. George Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska:

SIR: In accordance with instructions of chief clerk, the following supplies have this day been forwarded to your address for official use.

Please receipt this invoice and return it to this office immediately after receiving the supplies.

Respectfully,

_____ _____,
Acting Chief, Division of Supplies.

Paid by Fish.

1 Carlton camera, 8 by 10, with tripod	$38.70
6 plate holders, 8 by 10	10.00
1 focusing cloth	.30
1 Bausch & Lomb Zeiss convertible anastigmatic No. 18 lens	176.00
1 B. & L. iris diaphragm shutter	18.00
1 color screen	5.50
10 dozen Cramer crown plates, 8 by 10	19.20

Received the supplies specified above.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

JUNE 6, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: With reference to my letter of the 4th instant, regarding the clipping apparatus forwarded to you on that date, the department received this morning from the Coates Co., Worcester, Mass., the two extra 5-foot flexible shafts that were specially ordered sometime ago, and I am having them forwarded this afternoon by Adams Express to the revenue cutter *Perry* for shipment to the islands. In the box with the two lengths of shafting I send a 5-foot pole fitted with brass clasps for use in manipulating the cutting portion of the clipper while in action.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE
SEAL FISHERIES, ALASKA,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 28, 1904.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt, on the 27th instant, of your letter of June 6, 1904, informing me that two extra 5-foot lengths of flexible shafting have been forwarded to me, for use on the seal-clipping machine, and to state that the shafting mentioned arrived safely yesterday by the *Thetis*.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

OCTOBER 17, 1904.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has received your letter of July 28 last to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, stating that the two extra 5-foot lengths of flexible shafting forwarded to you for use with the seal-clipping machine have been delivered in good order.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *October 2, 1904.*

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,

Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: The following office stationery will be required for use on the seal islands in the spring of 1905:

St. Paul.

500 envelopes, small, see sample.
500 envelopes, large, see sample.
6 dozen memorandum blocks, small, see sample.
12 dozen memorandum blocks, large, see sample.
2 reams typewriter manifold paper, see sample.
1 ream typewriter heavy paper, see sample.
1 quart writing fluid.
4 gross rubber bands, assorted.
1 safety inkstand.
1 sponge cup (reservoir, if sanctioned).
½ gross lead pencils, No. 2, medium.
¼ dozen rubber erasers, Faber's circular.
1 box letter fasteners, Eureka (nickel-plated).
1 Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

St. George.

500 envelopes, small, see sample.
500 envelopes, large, see sample.
4 dozen memorandum blocks, small, see sample.
6 dozen memorandum blocks, large, see sample.
1 ream typewriter manifold paper, see sample.
1 ream typewriter heavy paper, see sample.
1 quart writing fluid.
4 gross rubber bands, assorted.
1 safety inkstand.
1 sponge cup (reservoir, if sanctioned).
½ gross lead pencils, No. 2, medium.
¼ dozen rubber erasers, Faber's circular.
1 Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.
1 box letter fasteners, Eureka (nickel-plated).

The two offices are badly in need of a dictionary apiece, as the old makeshifts now in use are without backs and have lost some of their leaves. I would prefer to have the articles mentioned sent to the islands by a revenue cutter, to avoid a claim for freight if sent by the company's vessel.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

Inclosures.

[Inclosure 1.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, November 4, 1904.

To the CHIEF CLERK.

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief of Division.

Approved:
F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.	Articles.
13	2 reams	Typewriting paper, manifold, sample inclosed.
7	1 ream	Typewriting paper, heavy, sample inclosed.
196	1 quart	Carter's writing fluid.
321B 321D 322 322B	4 gross	Rubber bands, assorted, Nos. 16, 19, 30, 32.
	1	Safety inkstand, Crescent.
161a	1	Reservoir sponge cup.
251	½ gross	Lead pencils, No. 2, medium, round, Dixon's.
328B	½ dozen	Faber's circular rubber erasers.
220A	1 box	Eureka letter fasteners (nickel-plated).
	1	Dictionary, Webster's Unabridged.
391A	3	Steel erasers, wood handle, Miller Bros.
206A	1 pint	Red ink, Paul's.
251BY	1 dozen	Pencils, round, Faber's.
460A	1	Shipping case.

Received the above March 15, 1905.

[Inclosure 2.—Duplicate.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, November 4, 1904.

To the CHIEF CLERK.

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief of Division.

Approved:
F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.	Articles.
13	2 reams	Typewriting paper, manifold, sample inclosed.
7	1 ream	Typewriting paper, heavy, sample inclosed.
196	1 quart	Carter's writing fluid.
321B 321D 322B 322	4 gross	Rubber bands, assorted, Nos. 16, 19, 30, 32.
	1	Safety inkstand.
161A	1	Reservoir sponge cup.
251	½ gross	Lead pencils, No. 2, medium, round, Dixon's.
328B	½ dozen	Faber's circular rubber erasers
220A	1 box	Eureka letter fasteners (nickel-plated).
391A	3	Steel erasers wood handle, Miller Bros.
206A	1 pint	Red ink, Paul's.
251BY	1 dozen	Pencils, round, Faber's, No. 3.
460A	1	Shipping case.

Received the above June 6, 1905.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

[Inclosure 3.—Duplicate.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. George Island, November 4, 1904.

To the CHIEF CLERK.

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief of Division.

Approved:
F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.	Articles.
13	1 ream.....	Typwriting paper, manifold, sample inclosed.
7	1 ream.....	Typewriting paper, heavy, sample inclosed.
196	1 quart.....	Carter's writing fluid.
	1.....	Safety inkstand.
161A	1.....	Reservoir sponge cup.
251	½ gross.....	Lead pencils, No. 2, medium, Dixon's, round.
328B	½ doz.....	Faber's circular rubber erasers.
220A	1 box.....	Eureka letter fasteners (nickel-plated).
321B	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 16.
321D	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 19.
322	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 30.
322B	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 32.
391A	3.....	Steal erasers, wood handle, Miller Bros.
251BY	1 doz.....	Pencils, round, Faber's, No. 3.
206A	1 pint.....	Red ink, Paul's.
460B	1.....	Shipping case.

Received the above June 15, 1905.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries in Alaska.

[Inclosure 4.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. George Island, November 4, 1904.

To the CHIEF CLERK.

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief of Division.

Approved:
F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.	Articles.
13	1 ream.....	Typewriting paper, manifold, sample inclosed.
7	1 ream.....	Typewriting paper, heavy, sample inclosed.
196	1 quart.....	Carter's writing fluid.
	1.....	Safety inkstand, Crescent.
161A	1.....	Reservoir sponge cup.
251	½ gross.....	Lead pencils, No. 2, medium, Dixon's, round.
328B	¼ dozen.....	Faber's circular rubber erasers.
	1.....	Dictionary, Webster's Unabridged.
220A	1 box.....	Eureka letter fasteners (nickel-plated).
	4 gross.....	Rubber bands, assorted.
321B	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 16.
321D	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 19.
322	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 30.
322B	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 32.
391A	3.....	Steel erasers, wood handle, Miller Bros.
251BY	1 dozen.....	Pencils, round, Faber's, No. 3.
206A	1 pint.....	Red ink, Paul's.
460B	1.....	Shipping case.

Part IV. Agents' Personal Information Sheets.

PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET.

(Note.—This sheet is to be used only in cases of persons transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor by operation of law July 1, 1903.)

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Office of the Secretary,
Washington, May 15, 1904.

To the Heads of Bureaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor:

For the purpose of enabling the department to obtain a complete record of its officers and employees, you are hereby requested to furnish the information called for in Part II of this form, relative to each appointee or employee, now in the service, who was serving in your bureau June 30, 1903, and was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor July 1, 1903, pursuant to the acts of Congress approved February 14, 1903, and March 3, 1903, and to have every such person answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. Officers in charge, subordinate to heads of bureaus, are expected to review this sheet, after it has been executed, to see that all questions have been answered, and, after doing so, to forward it immediately to the head of the bureau for transmission to the department.

Geo. B. Cortelyou, *Secretary.*

Part I.

(Blanks in Part I are to be filled by the appointee or employee; but if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case the statement is to be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any question, he should indicate that fact.)

1. What is your full name? (Do not use initials, but spell out each name and state whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Example: Mr. John Richard Doe.) Mr. Walter Irwin Lembkey.
2. How do you write your name on the pay roll? W. I. Lembkey.
3. What is your present legal (voting) residence? (Give city or town, State or Territory, county, and congressional district.) Philadelphia, Pa.; Philadelphia; Sixth.
4. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.") White.
5. Where were you born? Philadelphia, Pa.
6. When were you born? December 18, 1870.
7. Are you pensioned by the United States Government? (Answer "Yes" or "No.") No.
8. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States Government? (If so, give below their names, relationship, the departments and bureaus or services in which they are employed, and the positions they occupy.) None.

9. How long were you in the civil service of the United States Government prior to July 1, 1903? Since December, 1890; 12 years, 6 months.

10. If you were appointed through a civil-service examination, state, as near as you recollect, the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "Appointed before position was classified;" or, "By reinstatement;" or, "By transfer from ——," stating department, bureau or service, position, and salary, if known.) Clerk-copyist examination, July or August, 1890 (?).

11. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.) Defective eyesight; astigmatism; corrected by glasses.

12. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American Wars? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) No.

13. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time, other than during the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, indicate such service in the spaces below. ———.

14. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service for the Government indicated in your answers to questions 9, 12, and 13.) Local editor newspaper; general secretary Y. M. C. A.; deputy recorder of deeds; and general real estate business.

15. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: "Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.") Public school; high school, 1886; Columbian University, LL. M., 1893.

16. What special qualifications have you—professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "lawyer," or "civil engineer," or "draftsman," or "carpenter.") Qualified as lawyer.

17. What, if any, civil-service examinations have you passed? (State name and date of each, as near as you recollect.) Clerk-copyist, 1890; clerk, $1,200 grade, 1892 (?).

18. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.) Written by myself.

19. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. May 12, 1904.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

Witness:
——— ———.

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded May 13, 1904.

F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department Commerce and Labor.

Part II.

(Blanks in Part II are to be filled by the executive officers of the various bureaus of the department, or, at their direction, by some official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.)

1. State the bureau or service, place, and district in which the person who answered the above questions was employed July 1, 1903. Seal fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska, and Washington, D. C.

2. What position did he hold July 1, 1903? Agent for the seal fisheries, Alaska.

3. On what date was he appointed to this position? October 1, 1900.

4. How long had he served in the bureau or service in which he was employed July 1, 1903? Five years.

5. What was his salary July 1, 1903? $3,650.

6. From what appropriation was he paid July 1, 1903? "Salaries and traveling expenses of agents at seal fisheries in Alaska."

7. Was the position he held July 1, 1903, excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil-service rules? Competitive.

8. If the position was classified, state the date of classification. April 15, 1903.

9. If the appointee or employee was appointed through examination, state the kind of examination. If not so appointed, state how he entered the position. (Examples: "Appointed before position was classified;" or, "By reinstatement;" or, "By transfer from ——— ———," stating department, bureau or service, position, and salary, if known.) Appointed by promotion from clerk to assistant agent, and from assistant agent to agent.

10. Is the appointee or employee required to give bond? As special district agent, yes.

GEO. W. LEADLEY,
Acting Chief, Division of Appointments.
M. M. D.

MAY 16, 1904.

PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET.

(NOTE.—This sheet is to be used only in cases of persons transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor by operation of law July 1, 1903.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 15, 1904.

To the Heads of Bureaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor:

For the purpose of enabling the department to obtain a complete record of its officers and employees, you are hereby requested to furnish the information called for in Part II of this form, relative to each appointee or employee, now in the service, who was serving in your bureau June 30, 1903, and was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor July 1, 1903, pursuant to the acts of Congress approved February 14, 1903, and March 3, 1903, and to have every such person answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. Officers in charge, subordinate to heads of bureaus,

are expected to review this sheet, after it has been executed, to see that all questions have been answered, and, after doing so, to forward it immediately to the head of the bureau for transmission to the department.

GEO. B. CORTELYOU,
Secretary.

Part I.

(Blanks to Part I are to be filled by the appointee or employee; but if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case, the statement is to be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any question, he should indicate that fact.)

1. What is your full name? (Do not use initials, but spell out each name and state whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Example: Mr. John Richard Doe.) Mr. James Judge.

2. How do you write your name on the pay roll? James Judge.

3. What is your present legal (voting) residence? (Give city or town, State or Territory, county, and congressional district.) Columbus, Ohio; Franklin; twelfth.

4. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.") White.

5. Where were you born? Columbus, Ohio.

6. When were you born? July 22, 1866.

7. Are you pensioned by the United States Government? (Answer "Yes" or "No.") No.

8. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States Government? (If so, give below their names, relationship, the departments and bureaus or services in which they are employed, and the positions they occupy.) ———.

9. How long were you in the civil service of the United States Government prior to July 1, 1903? Nine years and two months.

10. If you were appointed through a civil-service examination, state, as near as you recollect, the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "Appointed before position was classified;" or "By reinstatement;" or "By transfer from ———," stating department, bureau or service, position, and salary, if known.) Appointed before position was classified.

11. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.) I have imperfect eyesight and wear glasses.

12. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American Wars? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) ———.

13. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time, other than during the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, indicate such service in the spaces below. ———.

14. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service for the Government indicated in your answers to questions 9, 12, and 13.) Clerk and retail grocer.

15. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: "Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.") High school; business college.

16. What special qualifications have you—professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "lawyer," or "civil engineer," or "draftsman," or "carpenter.") Qualified as lawyer.

17. What, if any, civil-service examinations have you passed? (State name and date of each as near as you recollect.) None.

18. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.) They were.

19. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. August 20, 1904.

JAMES JUDGE,
St. George Island, Bering Sea, Alaska.

Witness:

——— ———.

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded September 17, 1904.

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

Part II.

(Blanks in Part II are to be filled by the executive officers of the various bureaus of the department, or, at their direction, by some official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.)

1. State the bureau or service, place, and district in which the person who answered the above questions was employed July 1, 1903. Fisheries (seal fisheries of Alaska), Alaska.

2. What position did he hold July 1, 1903? Assistant agent, seal fisheries of Alaska.

3. On what date was he appointed to this position? October 31, 1898.

4. How long had he served in the bureau or service in which he was employed July 1, 1903? Since April 30, 1894; nine years and two months.

5. What was his salary July 1, 1903? $2,920 per annum.

6. From what appropriation was he paid July 1, 1903? "Salaries and traveling expenses of agents at seal fisheries in Alaska."

7. Was the position he held July 1, 1903, excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil-service rules? Competitive.

8. If the position was classified, state the date of classification. April 15, 1903.

9. If the appointee or employee was appointed through examination, state the kind of examination. If not so appointed, state how he entered the position. (Examples: "Appointed before position was classified;" or, "By reinstatement;" or, "By transfer from ——— ———," stating department, bureau or service, position, and salary, if known.) Appointed without examination; excepted.

10. Is the appointee or employee required to give bond? No.

——— ———.

1905.

Part I. Instructions to Agents and Agents' Reports.

Statement showing prices charged for articles of merchandise furnished by the North American Commercial Co. for the native inhabitants of the seal islands of Alaska for the following-named years.

	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Sugar.....per pound..	$0.10	$0.10	$0.10	$0.10	$0.10	$0.10
Milk.....per can..	.25	.25	.25	.25	.20 .25	.25
Butter [1].....per pound..	.30	.30	.30	.40	.40	.40
Candies.....do....	.20	.20	.20	.20	.20	.20
Flour.....do....	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03
Soap.....4 bars..	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
Baking powder.....per pound..	.70	.80	.80	.80	.80	.80
Raisins.....do....	.10	.15 .20	.20	.20	.20	.15 .20
Hard bread.....do....	.05	.05	.05	.05	.05	.06
Lard.....do....	.15	.15	.15	.16 .16⅔	.16 .16⅔	.16 .16⅔ .18
Jelly.....per can..	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
Fruit.....do....	.25	.30	.30	.30	.30	.30
Coffee.....per pound..	.35	.35	.35	.35	.35	.35
Ivory soap.....bar..	.12½	.12½	.12½	.12½	.12½	.12½
Worcester sauce.....per bottle..	.25	.40	.40	.40	.40	.40
Rice.....per pound..	.08⅓	.08⅓	.08⅓	.08⅓	.08⅓	.08⅓
Leather for half soles.....	.50	.50	.50	[2].75	.50	.50
Thread.....spool..	.05	.05	.05	.08⅓	.08⅓	.08⅓
Woman's stockings.....pair..	.50	.50	.50	.60	.60	.60
Girl's stockings.....do....	.35	.35 .40	.40	.40	.40	.40
Men's socks.....do....	.50	.40 .50	.50	.60	.60	.60
Men's shoes.....per pair..	.....	4.50	4.00 4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Women's shoes.....do....	3.00 3.50	3.50 4.00	3.00 4.00 4.25	2.50 4.00 4.50	3.00 4.00	4.00 4.50
Girls' shoes.....do....	.....	2.50	2.50	2.00	2.50	2.25 3.00
Child's shoes.....do....	1.25	1.75	2.00	1.75	1.75	1.50 1.75
Men's heavy boots.....do....	6.50	6.00 7.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Hip rubber boots.....do....	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Boys' shoes.....do....	1.25 1.50 2.00	2.00 2.20	2.50	2.00 2.50	2.50 2.75	2.75 3.00
Canton flannel.....per yard..	.20	.20	.20	.20	.25	.25 .20
Gingham.....do....	.15	.15	.15	.15	.15	.15
Calico.....do....	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10
Boys' stockings.....per pair..	.30	.40	.40	.40	.40	.40
Men's rubbers.....do....	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Tobacco (leaf).....per pound..	.25	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
Towels.....each..	.25	.30	.25	.25	.25	.25
Salt beef.....per pound..	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10	.10 .12½
Coal oil.....per gallon..	.40	.40	.40	.40	.40	.40
Prunes.....per pound..	.15	.15	.15	.20	.15	.15
Tomatoes.....per can..	.15	.15	.15	.15	.15 .20	.20
Women's arctics.....per pair..	1.50	1.50	1.75	1.75	1.75	2.00 1.75
Sheeting.....per yard..	.20	.30	.25	.....	.25	.25
Bedspreads.....	1.25	1.75	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.80
Women's undershirts.....each..	1.50	1.25	1.25	1.50	.75	1.25 1.50 1.75

[1] Butter is furnished in rolls and is a little short of the full pound, a roll weighing about 30 ounces and counting as 2 pounds.

[2] Including heels.

Statement showing prices charged for articles of merchandise furnished by the North American Commercial Co. for the native inhabitants of the seal islands of Alaska for the following-named years—Continued.

	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Dried apples.....per pound..	$0.15	$0.15	$0.15	$0.15	$0.15	$0.15
Blue flannel.....per yard..	.60	.50 .60 .70	.50 .70	.50	.50 .75	.50 .75
Men's arctics.....per pair..	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.25	2.25	2.25 3.00
Men's undershirts.....each..	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Men's drawers.....do....	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Women's rubbers.....per pair..	.60	.80	.60 .75	.70	.70 .80	.70 .80
Sweet cakes.....per pound..	.15	.15	.15	.20	.20	.20
Soda cakes.....do....	.10	10	.10	.10	.10 .15	.10
Suits, men's clothes .....each..	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	12.15 18.00
Ham	.....	.....	.....	.20	.20	.15 .22
Potatoes.....per pound..	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03
Onions.....do....	.05	.05	.05	.05	.05	.05
Can roast beef.....per can..	.30	.30	.30	.30	.30	.30
Women's shawls.....each..	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50 5.00	5.00	5.00
Dress goods.....per yard..	.35 .70	.35 .70	.35 .75	.35 .75	.35 .75	.35 .75
Olive oil.....pint..	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
Can cabbage.....per can..	.20	.15	.20	.20	.20	.20
Corn beef.....per pound..	.25	.25	.30	.30	.30	.30
Dates.....do....	.15	.15	.15	.15	.15	.....
Can salmon (2 sizes).....	.....	.15 .25	.15 .25	.15 .25	.15 .25	.15 .25
Suspenders.....per pair..	.50	.60	.70 .75	.70	.60 .75	.70 1.00
Baby shoes.....	.90	1.00	1.25 1.00	1.25	1.00	1.25
Jam.....per can..	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
Corn.....	.....	.....	.20	.20	.20	.20
Overalls, suit	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Salt pork.....	.....	.....	.12½	.12½	.12½	.15
Beans.....per pound..	.08½	.08½	.08½	.08½	.08½	.08½
Tea.....do....	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
Men's handkerchiefs.....each..	.20 .25	.20 .25	.20 .25	.30	.25 .35	.35
Peas.....	.....	.....	.....	.20	.20	.....

Prepared from the accounts in possession of the first auditor and the fifth auditor by—

Respectfully submitted.

EZRA W. CLARK.
H. D. CHICHESTER.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 1, 1905.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent of Seal Fisheries in Alaska,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: The act of Congress, approved March 2, 1895 (28 Stats., 807), provides that "hereafter every officer required by law to take and approve official bonds shall cause the same to be examined at least every two years, for the purpose of ascertaining the sufficiency of the sureties thereon * * *.

In compliance with said law you will please cause the affidavits and certificate herewith inclosed to be executed as evidence of the solvency of the sureties on your current bond as special disbursing agent

of the appropriation "Salaries and traveling expenses of agents of seal fisheries in Alaska," dated April 22, 1903, in the amount of $500, and forward to this office at the earliest practicable date.

If the solvency of any of the sureties thereon has become weakened in any manner since the date of the execution of said bond, or if any of said sureties have died, you are hereby directed to notify this office at once of such insolvency or death, in order that the proper steps may be taken for renewing or strengthening the bond.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, March 24, 1905.

Hon. V. H. METCALF,
Secretary Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I beg the attention of the department to the following statement and recommendation:

For some years past the Government has been engaged in establishing a herd of reindeer in northern Alaska. The object has been accomplished by importing the original stock from Siberia and augmenting it by propagation at the several Alaska stations. The herd now numbers over 8,000, distributed at ten or a dozen stations. The purpose of the undertaking is to furnish a means of subsistence for the simple natives of our most northern coasts in place of the wild game which is being driven out by the encroachment of civilization.

The reindeer afford to the northern natives food and clothing, and furnish beasts of burden to transport the people and their supplies over the frozen tundra. The female deer yield a very rich milk. Introducing the reindeer is a beneficent work.

The object of this communication is to recommend that this department take steps to have a small band of reindeer transferred to each of the seal islands, with the purpose of creating a herd as a source of subsistence of the native residents of those islands. In view of the steady diminution of the seal herd, some provision is likely to become necessary in the not distant future. In any event, the enterprise would be a good one from an economical point of view. The reindeer would increase rapidly, without cost for food or superintendence. The presence of Government agents the year round would insure the necessary oversight.

The mosses and grasses of the seal islands, of which there is a great abundance, are of the precise character required by these animals. There is no question of the adaptability of the islands to the raising of reindeer. Examination by experts from the north shows them to be especially fitted for the purpose. The animals are tractable and gentle, and no disturbance of other animals on the island need be apprehended from their presence. The seals are not disturbed by horses, cattle, or sheep, which have run loose on the islands from time immemorial.

The Bureau of Education, under the Interior Department, has charge of the reindeer business in Alaska, and Dr. Sheldon Jackson, of the

said bureau, the general agent of education for Alaska, has immediate charge of it. The writer has conferred with this gentleman on the subject, who sees no obstacle to the plan here recommended. The revenue cutters have always transported the reindeer from Siberia, and may be availed of to bring down from northern Alaska the few required to form the nucleus of a herd for each seal island.

I therefore respectfully recommend that a letter be addressed to the honorable the Secretary of the Interior, requesting that a small herd of reindeer, preferably 50 to 75 females, with the necessary proportion of males, be transferred from the Government herd in Alaska to the seal islands of the Pribilof group, an equal number to each of the islands of St. Paul and St. George.

It is understood that no expense will be involved in this measure, as the revenue cutter would render this service while in the performance of her regular cruising, and the reindeer are now owned by the Government.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, April 14, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY,
Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

SIR: In order to put me in funds with which to meet my expenses in traveling to the seal islands of Alaska, I request to be appointed a special disbursing agent, without additional compensation, for the disbursement of moneys from the appropriation "Salaries and traveling expenses of agents at seal fisheries in Alaska," and that the penalty of the bond be fixed at $500.

I have held such an appointment until now under the Treasury Department, but, owing to the disqualification of one of my sureties, need to give a new bond under a new appointment.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN SEAL FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C., May 1, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY,
Department Commerce and Labor.

SIR: Referring to my application made a few days ago to be appointed special disbursing agent of this department in connection with my services in Alaska as seal agent, I have now respectfully to withdraw such application, as I have made arrangements with a private party for the funds needed.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent.

MAY 1, 1905.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: You are hereby authorized and instructed to proceed from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, in time to be in readiness for service there at the opening of the coming sealing season. On reaching the islands you will report for duty to Mr. W. I. Lembkey, agent in charge.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

MAY 1, 1905.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: You are hereby authorized and instructed to proceed from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, in time to be in readiness for service there at the opening of the coming sealing season. On reaching the islands you will report for duty to Mr. W. I. Lembkey, agent in charge.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

MAY 1, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: The department has purchased 8 pairs of sheep shears for your use on the islands in marking the 2-year-old and 3-year-old seals that you have been instructed to reserve. These shears will be forwarded to you on the company's steamer and you may distribute them according to your judgment between the two islands. In view of the fact that the assistant agents on St. George report that they were able last season to accomplish the necessary marking more readily with sheep shears than with branding irons, it is thought that you may find it desirable to adopt the shearing method also on St. Paul.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE OF SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 17, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the department's letter of the 1st ultimo, notifying me that 8 pairs of sheep shears will be forwarded to me for use in marking bachelors to be reserved this season, and to say that, upon the receipt of the shears in question, they will be given a thorough trial.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

MAY 10, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith department letter of May 1, 1905, embodying your instructions for the coming season as agent in charge of the seal islands.

Three copies of the letter of instructions are also inclosed, one of which you will please deliver to each of the assistant agents at the islands.

By to-day's mail I shall forward a copy of the letter of instructions to the North American Commercial Co., Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

Very truly, yours,

T. L. WEED,
Acting Chief Clerk.

H. H. TAYLOR,
JERE. T. BURKE,
Of North American Commercial Co.

MAY 1, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

SIR: Assistant Agents Ezra W. Clark and H. D. Chichester, who are now in Washington, D. C., have been instructed to proceed to the seal islands, Alaska, in time to reach there before the beginning of the coming sealing season and to report to you for instructions.

You will make such assignment of the assistant agents for the season's work as in your opinion will best subserve the interests of the service and the welfare of the native inhabitants, notifying the department of your action in this regard.

At the close of the sealing season, or as soon thereafter as feasible, Assistant Agent James Judge and yourself are to return to Washington, D. C., and report for duty at the department, unless in your opinion the exigencies of the service require either or both of you to remain on the islands during the coming winter, in which event you are instructed to remain there.

Inclosed herewith are copies of the contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co., and it will be your duty and that of your assistants to see that its provisions are enforced and that the rights of the Government and those of the lessees are duly protected.

Should a difference of opinion arise at any time between yourself and the representatives of the company in respect to a matter of administration on the islands, your decision must govern; but in all such cases you should request the superintendent of the company to furnish a written statement of his views on the question involved, and this statement should be transmitted to the department, with an expression of your own views, at the earliest practicable moment.

Quota: If the condition of the herd will permit, the lessees may be allowed to take during the season of 1905 as many as 13,000 male seals of the proper age on the island of St. Paul, and as many as 2,000 on the island of St. George, but not more than the number specified in either case. The numbers to which the quotas of the two islands are thus limited shall be inclusive of any skins accepted by the company from food drives made prior to the present sealing season. No seals shall be taken this season that have reached the age of four years (i. e., seals that have attained their fifth summer), nor shall any seals be taken that are under 2 years of age.

In order to remove all doubt as to the reservation of a sufficient number of male seals for the perpetuation of the herd, you are instructed to release from among the best seals appearing in the first drives of the season not less than 1,000 three-year-old males and not less than 1,000 two-year-old males. Of the 3-year-olds and 2-year-olds to be reserved, 800 of each shall be released on the island of St. Paul and 200 of each on the island of St. George. The seals thus released are to be marked in such a manner as will make them readily recognizable throughout the season, and under no circumstances are they to be taken by the lessees.

Killing season: The killing season should begin as soon after the 1st of June as the rookeries are in condition for driving. Seals shall not be killed by the lessees later than July 31. No seals whatever shall be taken during the stagey season. The killing of pups for food for the natives, or for any other purpose, is not to be permitted.

Seals for food: The number of seals to be killed by the natives for food during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1905, shall not exceed 1,700 on the island of St. Paul and 300 on the island of St. George, and no seals shall be taken for this purpose that have reached the age of four years (i. e., seals that have attained their fifth summer), nor shall any seals be taken that are under 2 years of age, nor any of the 3-year olds or 2-year olds reserved during the lessees' killing season under the instructions given above.

Driving: The representatives of the company on the islands should be required to give notice on the day preceding that on which they desire to make a drive of the seals, stating the name of the rookery selected, such notice to be subject to your approval. A representative of the Government should be present on the killing grounds in each instance to superintend the killing. If at any time the methods employed in driving or killing appear in your judgment to be faulty or detrimental to the seal herd, you should see that such methods are immediately corrected, indicating to the representatives of the company what changes are to be made.

Killing grounds: As heretofore, you should establish on each of the islands killing grounds that can be reached by the shortest possible drive, provided, however, that such killing grounds must be at places sufficiently distant from the rookeries to prevent annoyance from the decaying carcasses.

Acceptance of skins: In an opinion dated March 8, 1902, it was held by the Solicitor of the Treasury that the lessees have no right to reject any of the skins taken from the seals they have selected for killing. You will therefore see that all such skins, regardless of condition, are accepted.

Counting skins: All the sealskins should be carefully counted in the salt houses in the presence of the department agent and of the representative of the company, and a receipt, in duplicate, in the following form should be prepared and signed by said agent and by the representative of the company:

ST. ——— ISLAND,

———— ————, 190—.

We certify that there have been placed in the salt house in our presence ——— sealskins.

————— ————,
Agent United States Department of Commerce and Labor.

————— ————,
Agent, North American Commercial Co.

The original of the above receipt should be retained by the department agent and the duplicate given to the representative of the North American Commercial Co. At the close of the season when the sealskins are again counted and shipped on board the company's steamer the usual annual receipts should be signed by the captain of the steamer and the representative of the department.

Trading in skins: The North American Commercial Co. has the exclusive privilege under its contract of taking sealskins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George and you should see that the company is protected in this right. Care should be taken to prevent the disposal of skins by the natives to any other company or to any person. All trading in sealskins by the natives is strictly prohibited, nor shall the natives be permitted to do any trading in fox skins.

Measures to prevent shipment of skins by natives: To avoid the possibility of sealskins or fox skins being surreptitiously shipped from the islands, you are directed to continue the practice of examining all goods to be shipped by the natives, including baggage and personal effects, and where barrels, casks, boxes, or other receptacles are used they should be closed under your supervision after an examination of their contents before being placed in the warehouse. No person shall be admitted to the space reserved for such merchandise in the warehouse without your consent. Any skins found concealed in packages to be shipped by the natives should be seized and held subject to instructions from the department.

Census of seal herd: You are expected to make a thorough examination into the condition of the seal herd during the coming season and to make a careful count of the number of breeding seals, male and female, on the islands, and also a computation as accurate as possible of the number of seals not breeding, including idle bulls, half bulls, bachelors, and virgin females. A careful enumeration should also be made of the pups found dead at the close of the season and such information as can be had regarding the causes of death reported.

Sealskins to be weighed: You are instructed to have the skins of the seals taken by the lessees during the coming season carefully weighed and to keep a record of the weights for the information of the department. You should also weigh the skins of seals that are killed to supply food for the natives and record the weights. The natives may be required to assist as far as practicable in the work of weighing.

Care of the natives: The care and welfare of the natives should receive your close attention, and you are directed to see that the lessees perform all of the obligations of their contract toward such natives. You should ascertain the prices charged at the company's stores, compare them with the prices at San Francisco, and report any instances where the natives are compelled to pay unfair prices. You should also inspect the articles supplied as to quality and quantity, and if they are in any manner deficient you should report the fact to the department.

Compensation to natives for taking sealskins: The compensation to be paid by the company for killing, salting, curing, bundling, and loading the sealskins on the company's steamer will be 50 cents for each skin. The money thus earned is to constitute a community fund for distribution among the natives according to their respective classes. At the close of the sealing season, after a conference with the native chiefs, you will make such division of the fund among the natives, according to their classification, as is deemed fair and just, and submit a report of such division, showing the amount apportioned to each native participating in the fund, which report should be accompanied by an indorsement from the native chiefs and the company's agent certifying that such funds have been credited to such natives on the books of the company.

Returns to natives under fox contract: The contract granting the North American Commercial Co. the right to propagate for a term of five years on the islands of St. Paul and St. George the fur-bearing animal known as the blue fox will expire on the 2d instant. The company has made application to the department for a renewal of the contract, and the matter is now under consideration. If a new contract is concluded, you will be advised in a later communication regarding its terms. Should you fail to receive notice of the execution of such a contract, you are directed to see that during the coming season no fox skins whatever are taken by the company.

In the absence of a contract with the company you will exercise your judgment as regards permitting any fox skins to be taken by the natives. If you are convinced that it will be beneficial to the herd to allow the killing of a certain number of foxes, you may permit a reasonable quota to be taken under your direction, the skins to be delivered into your custody and to be retained by you awaiting instructions from the department as to the manner of their disposal. If skins are thus taken, the question of applying the proceeds in whole or in part to the support of the natives will be given careful consideration.

Payment of natives' earnings: The amounts that are earned from the company by the natives for labor other than sealing and foxing are to be paid to them in cash, and you will instruct the representatives of the company accordingly. The funds earned from sealing and foxing, however, are to be disbursed upon order as heretofore. The payment to the natives of money from the appropriation for their maintenance, upon the orders of the Government agent, is strictly prohibited. Articles that do not properly come within the term "necessaries" should not be exposed for sale in the company's stores nor sold to the natives for the money they earn by labor.

Support of natives: Congress has appropriated the sum of $19,500 "to enable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to furnish food, fuel, and clothing to the native inhabitants on the islands of Saint

Paul and Saint George, Alaska," during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906, and the greatest care and economy should be exercised in the expenditure of this appropriation. Articles of strict necessity only should be issued. No expensive dress goods, boots, or other articles are to be provided. The natives should be restricted to one pair of dress shoes each year and the women to one good dress. Ginghams, calicoes, muslins, and similar inexpensive dress goods may be issued in reasonable quantities.

The supply of fuel for the use of the natives is paid for from this appropriation, and the cost of such fuel should be not overlooked in determining how much of the appropriation is available for other purposes.

In the distribution of the supplies no distinction is to be made between persons without means and those having small savings from previous years, but the earnings for the current year should be expended for necessaries, other than "food, fuel, and clothing," before any allowance is granted from the appropriation.

You will continue the plan, adopted under previous instructions, of issuing orders upon the company for such supplies as are required by the native inhabitants after they have expended their current yearly earnings. At the end of the season, as heretofore, you will submit to the department the stubs of the orders given, for use in verifying the accounts of the company.

Coal supply: The North American Commerical Co. has agreed to furnish during the coming season for use on the islands 205 long tons of coal at $25 per ton, including delivery on the beach, 115 tons to be delivered on St. Paul Island and 90 tons on St. George Island. This coal, with the 80 tons additional the company is required to furnish under the terms of its contract, will make available for all purposes a supply of 285 tons, and in its distribution the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George are to be included.

Of the 205 tons purchased from the company you may make the following distributions:

	Tons.
St. Paul Island:	
For the Government house	15
For the use of the natives	100
St. George Island:	
For the Government house	15
For the use of the natives	75
Total	205

Of the 80 tons furnished by the company without charge under its contract, 50 tons may be distributed to the natives of St. Paul and 30 tons to the natives of St. George.

Dwellings for natives: The agreement of the company in its contract to furnish the native inhabitants of the islands a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings and to keep such dwellings in proper repair should be strictly enforced. You are instructed to obtain from the representatives of the company, as soon after the close of the current fiscal year as practicable, a statement of the amount expended during the year in carrying out this requirement of the contract.

Schools for the natives: You will require the schools for the native children to be maintained from September 1 to May 1, and to be opened 5 days in each week, the school hours to be from 9 o'clock a. m.

to 3 o'clock p. m., with 1 hour recess at noon, and 15 minutes recess in the forenoon.

It will be your duty to see that the teachers appointed by the company are competent to teach the English language and that they faithfully perform this duty. None but the English language shall be taught in the schools.

If the parents of the children on the islands desire to send them to the Jessie Lee School, at Unalaska, the department has no objection, provided no expenditure of public money is involved in their transportation to Unalaska, or their maintenance and schooling while there. This course will also be permitted, under the same conditions, in the case of orphan children for whom provision is now made by the company under its contract.

The amount expended by the company during the fiscal year for the maintenance of schools in accordance with the requirements of its contract should be ascertained and reported to the department.

House of worship and medical attendance: You will also ascertain the company's expenditures during the year in maintaining a suitable house for religious worship, and in providing competent physicians and necessary medicines and medical supplies.

Widows, orphans, aged, and infirm: The company is required by its contract to provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands who are unable to provide for themselves, and you will see that this obligation is fully discharged. As soon as practicable after the close of the current fiscal year you will procure from the representatives of the company a statement showing the number of such inhabitants provided for during the year, and also the amount expended in making such provision.

Widows and orphans having small sums of money to their credit should not be compelled to spend them and become wholly dependent before they are allowed to draw supplies under this provision in the company's contract. Such sums, as well as similar accounts held by other natives, may be drawn upon from time to time, however, with the consent and under the direction of the Government agent, for such reasonable articles as will contribute to the comfort of the persons supplying the funds.

Natives to render service: In consideration of the support gratuitously afforded the natives by the Government, you are directed to utilize their services, when not required by the company, in repairing roads, guarding the rookeries, and performing such other duties as seem desirable. This instruction is not to be regarded, however, as relieving the company from its obligation to employ the natives, at a fair and just compensation, for all such work as they are fitted to perform.

Election of native chiefs: No interference should be permitted in the selection of their chiefs by the native inhabitants of the islands. If it should transpire, however, that persons manifestly unsuitable for the position are chosen, it will be your duty to interpose in the interest of good government and require the selection of proper persons, but such action should be taken only in extreme cases.

Sale of intoxicants prohibited: The company agrees in its contract that it will not permit any of its agents to keep, sell, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors or opium on either of the islands or the waters adjacent thereto to any of the native inhabitants,

such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as a medicine. This obligation is to be rigidly enforced.

Manufacture of intoxicants prohibited: The brewing or distilling of intoxicating beverages on the islands is prohibited. In the enforcement of this provision you are authorized to discontinue the sale from the company's stores of sugar, or of other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants, to any person who violates this order, or who is found to be intoxicated. Should intoxication become so general among the people as to interfere with good government and jeopardize the peace, you are authorized to discontinue altogether the sale of sugar and of other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants, for such length of time as may appear wise.

Removal for cause: Should natives or other persons become so unruly or immoral in conduct as to endanger the peace and good government of the people, they should be removed from the islands, and the Revenue-Cutter Service will be instructed to render such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose.

Landing on the islands restricted: No persons other than Government officers, representatives and employees of the North American Commercial Co., and duly accredited representatives of the Russian Church shall be allowed to land on the islands except by written authority from the department. The permission granted representatives of the Russian Church to visit the islands may be suspended however, where its exercise is attempted by an improper person. Visitors to the islands should not be permitted to inspect the rookeries, except under your supervision.

Killing of sea lions to be limited: The preservation of the sea-lion rookeries on the islands is highly important. The killing of these animals should be limited to such number as is absolutely necessary in providing for the construction of "bidaras," or skin boats. Sea-lion pups should not be killed for any purpose.

Information regarding affairs on the islands: No information regarding the seals or as to any other matter pertaining to the seal islands is to be given out by you or by any of the assistant agents. All applications for such information should be referred to the department.

Conclusion: Should questions arise involving matters not covered by these instructions, it will be your duty to report the facts to the department, and to await instructions, except in cases requiring immediate decision, when you will take such action as sound judgment directs.

The instructions embodied in this letter are to remain in force until they are superseded by later ones, and in the event of your failure to receive revised instructions for a subsequent season the directions here given are to be followed for such season so far as they are applicable.

Three additional copies of this letter are inclosed herewith, and you are directed to furnish one of these copies to each of the assistant agents for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

[Copy of contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co., under which said company is granted the exclusive right of taking fur seals upon the Pribilof Islands in Alaska.]

This indenture, made in duplicate this 12th day of March, 1890, by and between William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, in pursuance of chapter 3 of title 23, Revised Statutes, and the North American Commercial Co., a corporation duly established under the laws of the State of California, and acting by I. Liebes, its president, in accordance with a resolution of said corporation adopted at a meeting of its board of directors held January 4, 1890,

Witnesseth: That the said Secretary of the Treasury, in consideration of the agreements hereinafter stated, hereby leases to the said North American Commercial Co. for a term of 20 years, from the 1st day of May, 1890, the exclusive right to engage in the business of taking fur seals on the islands of St. George and St. Paul in the Territory of Alaska, and to send a vessel or vessels to said islands for the skins of such seals.

The said North American Commercial Co., in consideration of the rights secured to it under this lease above stated, on its part covenants and agrees to do the things following, that is to say:

To pay to the Treasurer of the United States each year during the said term of 20 years, as annual rental, the sum of $60,000, and in addition thereto agrees to pay the revenue tax, or duty, of $2 laid upon each fur-seal skin taken and shipped by it from said islands of St. George and St. Paul, and also to pay to said Treasurer the further sum of $7.62½ apiece for each and every fur-seal skin taken and shipped from said islands, and also to pay the sum of 50 cents per gallon for each gallon of oil sold by it made from seals that may be taken on said islands during the said period of 20 years, and to secure the prompt payment of the $60,000 rental above referred to, the said company agrees to deposit with the Secretary of the Treasury bonds of the United States to the amount of $50,000, face value, to be held as a guaranty for the annual payment of said $60,000 rental, the interest thereon when due to be collected and paid to the North American Commercial Co., provided the said company is not in default of payment of any part of the said $60,000 rental.

That it will furnish to the native inhabitants of said islands of St. George and St. Paul annually such quantity or number of dried salmon and such quantity of salt and such number of salt barrels for preserving their necessary supply of meat as the Secretary of the Treasury shall from time to time determine.

That it will also furnish to the said inhabitants 80 tons of coal annually, and a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings in which said native inhabitants may reside; and will keep said dwellings in proper repair; and will also provide and keep in repair such suitable schoolhouses as may be necessary, and will establish and maintain during eight months of each year proper schools for the education of the children on said islands; the same to be taught by competent teachers, who shall be paid by the company a fair compensation, all to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury; and will also provide and maintain a suitable house for religious worship; and will also provide a competent physician or physicians, and necessary and proper medicines and medical supplies; and will also provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of said islands who are unable to provide for them-

selves; all of which foregoing agreements will be done and performed by the said company free of all costs and charges to said native inhabitants of said islands or to the United States.

The annual rental, together with all other payments to the United States provided for in this lease, shall be made and paid on or before the 1st day of April of each and every year during the existence of this lease, beginning with the 1st day of April, 1891.

The said company further agrees to employ the native inhabitants of said islands to perform such labor upon the islands as they are fitted to perform, and to pay therefor a fair and just compensation, such as may be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury; and also agrees to contribute, as far as in its power, all reasonable efforts to secure the comfort, health, education, and promote the morals and civilization of said native inhabitants.

The said company also agrees faithfully to obey and abide by all rules and regulations that the Secretary of the Treasury has heretofore or may hereafter establish or make in pursuance of law concerning the taking of seals on said islands, and concerning the comfort, morals, and other interests of said inhabitants, and all matters pertaining to said islands and the taking of seals within the possession of the United States. It also agrees to obey and abide by any restrictions or limitations upon the right to kill seals that the Secretary of the Treasury shall judge necessary, under the law, for the preservation of the seal fisheries of the United States; and it agrees that it will not kill, or permit to be killed, so far as it can prevent, in any year a greater number of seals than is authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury.

The said company further agrees that it will not permit any of its agents to keep, sell, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors or opium on either of said islands or the waters adjacent thereto to any of the native inhabitants of said islands, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as a medicine.

It is understood and agreed that the number of fur seals to be taken and killed for their skins upon said islands by the North American Commercial Co. during the year ending May 1, 1891, shall not exceed 60,000.

The Secretary of the Treasury reserves the right to terminate this lease and all rights of the North American Commercial Co. under the same at any time on full and satisfactory proof that the said company has violated any of the provisions and agreements of this lease, or in any of the laws of the United States, or any Treasury regulation respecting the taking of fur seals or concerning the islands of St. George and St. Paul or the inhabitants thereof.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

WILLIAM WINDOM,
Secretary of the Treasury.
NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COMPANY.
I. LIEBES,
President of the North American Commercial Company.
NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO. (INC.),
December, 1889.
Attest:
H. B. PARSONS,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 1, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

SIR: With reference to the provision in your instructions prohibiting the lessees from killing any seals during the coming season that are under 2 years of age, you are directed in the enforcement of this requirement to fix upon the same minimum limit of weight for the skins to be taken as that prescribed for the season of 1904, namely, 5½ pounds.

It will be your duty to see that every possible precaution is exercised to prevent the killing of seals that yield skins under the weight mentioned.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 17, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the department's letter of the 1st ultimo, prescribing, for the season of 1905, a minimum weight of sealskins to be taken of 5½ pounds, and to say that the necessary measures will be taken to have the regulations properly observed on the islands.

A copy of the letter referred to has been forwarded to the assistant agent in charge of St. George Island, for his guidance.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, May 11, 1905.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Alaska Fur-Seal Service,
Care of the North American Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith a copy of the fox lease, two letters for Mr. Lembkey, and one for Mr. Chichester, which I found on your desk in room 306 this morning. I am not sure but the copy of the fox lease was accidentally left behind, so I send it to you hoping it may reach you before the steamer sails.

The instructions for the present year have been signed and copies have been sent to each agent and also to the North American Commercial Co. I think you will receive your copy before this letter reaches you.

Wishing you a pleasant voyage and a successful season on the islands, I remain,

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 17, 1905.

Mr. F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of department's letter of the 1st ultimo, containing instructions for the official guidance of the Government agents on the seal islands for the season of 1905.

During the last winter, and including June 5, 1905, 1,546 seals were taken on the two islands for food for the natives, out of the allotment of 2,000 for that purpose. Of these, 1,311 were taken on St. Paul and 236 on St. George.

There were killed on St. George last winter 262 blue foxes and 10 white foxes. On St. Paul Island only 1 white skin was taken and no blues. On Otter Island, 6 miles southwest of St. Paul, 31 blue foxes and 2 white foxes were taken. This latter island has not been visited for the purpose of trapping foxes since 1894. The total trapping of foxes for branding and killing last winter on St. George indicates a decrease in the whole number of foxes present on the island of 295, as compared with the preceding season.

Until this time the weather has been too unfavorable for marking bachelor seals. A drive for branding was made on St. Paul yesterday, but we were forced to release the seals without branding any, because of the dry, warm weather which set in after the drive was made.

The counts of bulls made thus far on St. Paul Island indicate a probable falling off of 10 to 15 per cent in the total number to be present at the height of the season. The cows have just begun to arrive and no estimate of their number can be made. In regard to bachelors, it may be possible to equal last year's catch, though a smaller number would not surprise me.

Assistant Agents Chichester and Clark have been placed on St. George for the summer, with Assistant Agent Judge and myself on St. Paul. In the fall Agent Judge and myself will return to the States. Agent Chichester will remain for the winter in charge of St. George, and Agent Clark will assume charge of St. Paul Island for the same period.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 15, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: I have your letter of June 17, acknowledging receipt of the department's instructions for the season of 1905, and reporting the number of seals taken for food of natives on the islands during the past winter.

Note is also made of your report on the number of blue and white foxes killed on the islands during the winter and your report of the opening of the present sealing season.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
August 13, 1905.

Mr. F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith shipping receipt for 13,000 fur-seal skins, the quota of St. Paul Island for the season of 1905.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 13, 1905.

This is to certify that 13,000 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the Alaska Commercial Co.'s North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *W. H. Kruger*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent.*

M. MARTIN,
Master, steamer "W. H. Kruger."

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 10, 1905.

This is to certify that 1,368 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *W. H. Kruger*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

Owner's count.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor.

M. MARTIN, *Master.*

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
San Francisco, Cal., August 25, 1905.

BOWEN,
Chief Clerk, Department Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

Report arrival with Agent Judge 14,368 sealskins shipped, this year's quota.

LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, September 11, 1905.

Mr. F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have to report that on August 16, at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, I was requested by Capt. Pfinger, of the U. S. S. *Manning*, to bring to the department his request for instructions whether or not he may seize the Mexican sealing schooner *Carmencita*, or *Akapulka*, at that date in the immediate vicinity of the seal islands, engaged in taking seals in the water.

Capt. Pfinger stated that from a search near August 6 of the schooner mentioned, by the British cruiser *Shearwater*, off the Pribilof Islands, it was learned that the schooner had papers made out in proper form by the Mexican consul at Victoria, British Columbia, in the name of Woodside, master; that the master in charge of the schooner at the time of its being searched claimed to be Woodside, but from his appearance the British searching officer declared him to be Alex. McLean, under indictment at San Francisco, as I understand, for conspiracy in connection with the fitting out of this schooner.

I was informed also that the search by the *Shearwater* disclosed 250 sealskins on board the schooner.

I may add that this schooner was seen three times during the present summer in close proximity to the 3-mile limit surrounding St. Paul Island and I believe used that vicinity as a hunting ground all summer. No raids on the rookeries were made by it.

The captain of the *Manning* stated that he was very anxious to seize the schooner, and would wait until the arrival of the mail boat in October, in the hope of receiving instructions to that effect.

The regular mail boat leaves Valdez, Alaska, on or about September 26, and arrives in Dutch Harbor on or about October 4. Telegraphic instructions to Capt. Pfinger to Valdez arriving in Valdez before the 26th instant will be conveyed to him to Dutch Harbor on the mail boat.

Very truly, yours.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, October 3, 1905.

Mr. F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have just received from you the account submitted by me to the department for my traveling expenses from St. Paul Island, Alaska, to Washington, D. C., returned by the disbursing clerk for the addition of certain information detailed in a memorandum signed by the disbursing clerk and attached to the account.

In compliance with the request in this memorandum, I have to make the following statement:

I arrived in San Francisco, as near as I can remember, about 1 o'clock in the afternoon of August 25 last.

I left San Francisco at about 9 o'clock in the morning of August 31 last.

My stay in San Francisco was necessary to the transaction of certain business relating to the islands with the North American Commercial Co.

The numbers of the transportation requests upon which my transportation to Washington was obtained have been inserted at the proper places in my account.

The request for railroad transportation was used between San Francisco and Boston.

The request for Pullman transportation was used between Chicago and San Francisco.

I arrived in Washington in the evening of Saturday, September 9. As I returned east by way of Boston, however, the charge of Pullman and seats from Chicago to Washington is based on direct travel by the shortest route.

I have no authority for the inclusion in my account of the charge for excess baggage. As the prolonged stay in Alaska, however, renders excess baggage necessary, I have to request that the charges in my account of $11.20 for excess baggage be authorized.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

OCTOBER 6, 1905.

While the instructions to the fur-seal agents contain no express reference to excess baggage, yet the fact that the agent and assistant agents leave Washington for a stay of nearly a year and a half on isolated islands in Bering Sea makes it necessary that they take with them an amount of clothing and supplies which would not be required under other conditions. Authorization for excess baggage of agents of the Alaskan salmon fisheries has heretofore been made, the amount not to exceed $20, and the necessity of extra baggage for the salmon agents is not nearly as large and imperative as in the case of the agents of the fur-seal fisheries. Allowance of the item for excess baggage is therefore recommended.

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

No. 5.

ANNUAL REPORT TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR, 1905, OF W. I. LEMBKEY, AGENT ALASKAN SEAL FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, October 26, 1905.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report on the administration of affairs on the seal islands of Alaska during the year ended August, 1905:

BRANDING OF BACHELORS.

The branding of bachelors, the first work of the season, was begun in June, 1905, as soon as the presence of the animals in numbers would justify.

On St. Paul, a drive for branding was started from the Reef on June 16, but, after having been made, was released because of the warm, bright weather which set in, rendering any handling of the seals hazardous.

On June 20 another drive from the same locality was made, and, in view of our previous experience, the work of branding was begun at 2.30 a. m. At 10.30 a. m., after an interval of two hours for breakfast, all seals of suitable age in the drive had been branded, the morning's work resulting in 466 two-year-olds and 437 three-year-olds being marked and released.

The branding irons and forges, formerly used for this purpose, were taken to the field, but, after singeing a dozen seals, the use of the hot irons was discontinued and some old sheep shears owned by the lessee were used. At the end of the season I received from Mr. Chichester three pairs of sheep shears which he had brought up from San Francisco in the spring.

On the following day we branded at Zapadni 168 two-year-olds and 132 three-year-olds, and from the drive remaining 367 bachelors were killed for their skins, as it was considered advisable to obtain the remainder of the number desired for branding from the northeastern end of the island.

On June 22 the native workmen were taken to Northeast Point, and on the following day 211 two-year-olds and 291 three-year-olds were marked on that rookery, thereby filling the quota for the island.

The following is a summary of the branding on St. Paul Island, 1905:

Date.	Rookeries.	2-year-olds.	3-year-olds.
1905			
June 20	Reef	466	437
21	Zapadni	168	132
23	Northeast Point	211	291
	Total	845	860

On St. George, Agent Chichester has furnished the following list of seals marked there this season:

Date.	2-year-olds.	3-year-olds.	4-year-olds.	Date.	2-year-olds.	3-year-olds.	4-year-olds.
1905.				1905.			
June 20	57	59	8	July 5	.....	.....	10
June 23	44	22	30	July 11	.....	.....	1
June 26	21	10	7				
June 28	71	52	8	Total	200	200	69
July 1	7	7	5				

Mr. Chichester states that the St. George branded seals were all marked by clipping off the fur on the top of the heads with sheep shears. In addition to this a half-round hole was punched through the outside finger of the left-hand flipper, marking them permanently. This was devised as a means of identifying the animals in the fall, and is feasible on St. George, as only a few seals are handled there.

The total number of bachelors marked and released on both islands in 1905 follows:

	2-year-olds.	3-year-olds.	4-year-olds.
St Paul	845	860	.....
St. George	200	200	69
Total	1,045	1,060	69

DRIVES DURING YEAR.

On St. Paul the lessee made 25 drives for skins during the summer of 1905, including two drives made by the Government agents for branding, from which the lessee was allowed to take skins after such number of seals as was desired for branding had been secured. From these drives made by the lessee, 11,675 sealskins were secured.

The Government agent on St. Paul, during the late fall of 1904 and the spring and early fall of 1905, made 11 drives to secure fresh meat for the natives. The watchmen at Northeast Point killed 14 seals for their food under permission from the Government agent. From these food drives, which include two made after July 31, 1905, 1,450 skins were secured from carcasses used for food.

From the drives for food and those made by the lessee 13,125 skins were taken, in addition to 143 skins left from the previous season. Care was taken that no more than the quota allowed, 13,000, should be taken from all sources at the close of the lessee's season, July 31. A total of 13,268 skins were in the salt house on St. Paul upon the arrival of the company's vessel at about the middle of August. Of these, 13,000 were shipped by the lessee as its quota for the island, leaving 268 skins in the salt house to be applied to the quota for the coming year.

On St. George, during the fall of 1904, 12 food drives were made by the Government agent for natives' food. These drives produced 236 skins, including the skin of 1 seal found dead in August. The lessee made 20 drives for skins during its killing season in 1905, thereby securing 1,132 skins.

From the drives made by the lessee and those made for food 1,368 sealskins were taken, all of which were shipped by the lessee toward its quota of 2,000 for St. George.

The bachelor seals appeared in larger numbers on St. Paul in 1905 than during the preceding season, allowing the quota of 13,000 for that island to be taken. This may be attributed to the large number of bachelors dismissed from the drives the preceding season.

It is not to be believed, however, that bachelors were so plentiful that the quota could have been exceeded had permission to do so been had. The lessee made every proper effort to secure its quota, and on St. Paul it was not known until the last drive had been made that enough skins could be secured to fill the quota for that island.

BACHELORS AMONG BREEDING SEALS.

It will be stated hereafter that at the height of the breeding season, by reason of the scarcity of bulls, bachelors were not compelled to resort to their hauling grounds to land, but were able to haul on the rookeries themselves, among the breeding seals.

As the isolation of bachelors on hauling grounds apart from the breeding mass is the condition upon which the securing of seals for killing is based, their being allowed to frequent the breeding area,

from which no drives are made, may have had a tendency to lessen the number secured on the hauling grounds. What number of bachelors hauled on the breeding grounds among the cows is not possible to state, but having in mind the restless habits of the bachelors, and the probable fact that the same animal hauls in a half dozen places on the islands during the same summer, it is believed that comparatively few escaped being caught in at least one of the drives by reason of being allowed to haul among the cows.

BACHELORS REMAINING AT END OF SEASON.

In counting pups at the end of the killing season, Mr. Judge and I found 500 bachelors on Polovina hauled up in the middle of the rookery and on the table rock in front, awash at high tide. Their presence was unknown to the lessee, and none of them were killed. At the same time about 300 were driven off Ketovi and about 200 off Lukanin. While counting Sea Lion Rock, we found probably 500 bachelors there which could not be driven. We are sure, therefore, that at least 1,500 bachelors were on shore at the end of the season, a large proportion of which had not been driven by the company.

WEIGHTS OF SEALSKINS.

All sealskins taken during the past season on either island were weighed. The list of weights for both islands is attached as an exhibit.

Careful attention was paid by me during the season to avoid the killing of underweight seals and 4-year-olds, and the presence of such skins in a killing was invariably brought to the attention of the lessee's agent in the form of a protest.

SEALS DISMISSED FROM DRIVES.

From the drives made on St. Paul during the season of 1905 the following number of dismissals was made, with the dismissals for the previous season added for purposes of comparison:

Years.	Not branded.		New brands.		Old brands.	
	Large.	Small.	2-year.	3-year.	3-year.	4-year.
1905	735	5,548	1,005	511	137	120
1904	641	4,794	1,320	568	.....	.....
Increase	94	754	.....	.....	.....	.....

The table given shows an increase in 1905, among seals not branded, of 94 large and 754 small dismissals. This is exclusive of the 3 and 4 year olds dismissed in 1905 as having been branded the previous year.

Although the same number of 2 and 3 year old bachelors was branded on St. Paul in 1905 the record of dismissals of such animals for that year shows a decrease from the previous season of 315 two-year-olds and 57 three-year-olds. This demonstrates a variation in the proportion of numbers hauling in this class of animals due, no doubt, to differing climatic conditions. The principle disclosed last year, however, that 2-year-old males haul more frequently than the 3-year-olds is substantiated.

Of the old brands made in 1904 with branding irons, 257 animals returned in 1905 with brands that were still recognizable and were

released. The permanent brand consisted usually of a small bare mark at the juncture of the two lines of the letter "T" brand.

On St. George there were released 199 large and 2,077 small seals not branded, as reported by Agent Chichester, and 890 branded, of which 810 were St. George brands, 64 St. Paul brands, and 16 so-called permanent brands. As the branding in 1905 on both islands was done with sheep shears, which would not permit of the subsequent identification of the work done on either island, it is believed that the seals classed by Mr. Chichester as "St. Paul" brands were those branded in 1904 with irons. The "permanent brands" were those probably branded in previous years across the back.

PERCENTAGE OF SEALS KILLED.

The statistics of killings on St. Paul Island, herewith submitted as an exhibit, show that 59 per cent of all seals driven on St. Paul last season were killed.

On St. George Island during the killing season, according to the report furnished by Agent Chichester, 4,232 animals were driven and 1,132 killed. The animals killed there represented 26 per cent of all seals driven.

Undoubtedly on St. George a number of seals were dismissed that would have furnished skins weighing 5½ pounds. The low percentage of animals killed on St. George must not be taken as a criterion of the rational proportion of killables in drives.

COUNTS OF SEALS.

The usual intermediate counts on the various rookeries were made from time to time during the summer. A summary of these counts for the two islands is appended as an exhibit.

Beginning on July 13 last, counts were made of all bulls on the islands, including those idle as well as those having cows.

The harem count on St. Paul follows:

Count of bulls, St. Paul Island, 1905.

Rookeries.	Bulls with harems.	Idle bulls.		Total.	
		Stationed.	"Quitters."	Idle.	Bulls.
Gorbatch Cliff	10				10
Gorbatch	122	2	6	8	130
Ardiguen	9				9
Reef	261	14	5	19	280
Ketovi	54	3	2	5	59
Lukanin	43	2	2	4	47
Amphitheater	12				12
Lagoon	23	2	1	3	26
Zapadni Reef	30	2		2	32
Little Zapadni	78	3	3	6	84
Zapadni	179	21	7	28	207
Northeast Point	362	16	11	27	389
Little Polovina	12				12
Polovina Cliff	36		1	1	37
Polovina	53	3	3	6	59
Tolstoi	136	7		7	143
Tolstoi Cliffs	35		3	3	38
Sea Lion Rock [1]					
Total	1,455	75	44	119	1,574

[1] On June 19, Sea Lion Rock had 45 bulls. It was not possible to make a count of harems there at the height of the season.

The harem count on St. George Island, as furnished by Agent Chichester, follows:

Rookeries.	Bulls with harems.	Idle bulls.	Total bulls.
East Reef	17	.....	17
Staraya Artel	29	4	33
East	47	7	54
Zapadni	45	3	48
Little East	16	.....	16
North	104	8	112
Total	258	22	280

DECREASE IN BULLS.

By comparison with similar counts made last year, it is found that since 1904 a decrease in harems has occurred of 18 per cent on St. Paul and 14 per cent on St. George.

A decrease in idle bulls has occurred since 1904 of 48 per cent on St. Paul and 64 per cent on St. George.

CLASSIFICATION OF LARGE SEALS DISMISSED.

The large seals dismissed from the drives this summer on St. Paul were divided, as regards age, as follows:

Date.	Rookeries.	4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	7 years.	8 years or over.
1905.						
June 19	Tolstoi	8	7	3	.....	.....
21	Zapadni	46	19	4	.....	.....
23	Northeast Point	32	28	10	.....	.....
26	Reef	38	31	11	.....	.....
30	Northeast Point	13	1	.....	.....	.....
July 1	Zapadni and Tolstoi	22	7	16	3	.....
3	Reef	32	9	5	4	.....
6	Northeast Point	10	7	3	5	.....
7	Zapadni	12	7	2	2	.....
8	Reef	25	2	1	1	.....
11	Northeast Point	.....	1	2	.....	.....
13	Reef	1	4	1	1	.....
14	Zapadni	1	.....	2	1	.....
16	Northeast Point	2	1	1	1	.....
17	Reef and Gorbatch	11	10	2	3	.....
19	Zapadni	13	5	1	.....	.....
21	Northeast Point	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
22	Reef and Gorbatch	4	3	6	3	1
24	Zapadni	26	3	1	1	.....
26	Northeast Point	8	3	3	2	3
27	Tolstoi	2	16	3	2	2
27	Reef	16	3	2	2	3
28	Zapadni and Little Zapadni	22	31	14	2	.....
31	Reef	1	1	.....	.....	1
31	Northeast Point	13	11	4	7	2
Aug. 10	Reef (Food)	5	9	1	1	.....
	Total	363	219	98	41	14

The large seals dismissed on St. George were classified by Agent Chichester as follows: Four years, 129; 5 years, 21; 6 years, 27; bulls, 14.

COUNTS OF PUPS.

Commencing on July 28, on St. Paul, the usual counts of pups were made on the rookery spaces selected for that purpose. A statement of the count so made, with that of the preceding year, attached for purposes of comparison, follows:

Rookeries.	1904			1905			Per cent harems.	Decrease pups.
	Harems.	Pups.	Average harem.	Harems.	Pups.	Average harem.		
Ketovi	69	2,147	31.11	54	1,858	34.59	21.7	13.4
Lagoon	24	1,084	45.16	23	929	40.39	4.1	14.2
Tolstoi Cliff	38	1,571	41.34	35	1,447	41.34	7.8	7.8
Zapadni Reef	46	1,091	23.71	30	833	27.76	34.7	23.6
Polovina Cliff	40	1,412	35.30	36	1,289	35.80	10.0	8.7
Ardiguen	15	565	37.66	9	437	48.55	40.0	22.6
Lukanin	51	2,020	39.60	43	1,841	42.81	15.6	8.8
West side Northeast Point	48	2,312	48.16	32	1,793	56.03	33.3	22.4
East side Northeast Point	19	831	43.73	20	696	34.80	[1] 5.2	16.2
Little Polovina	21	941	44.80	12	918	76.50	38.0	2.4
Polovina	72	3,691	51.26	53	3,320	62.64	26.3	10.0
Gorbatch Cliff	12	481	40.08	10	337	33.70	16.6	29.9
Amphitheater	12	458	38.16	12	361	30.08	.....	21.1
Sea Lion Rock[2]	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	467	18,604	39.83	369	16,059	43.52	20.77	13.67

[1] Increase.

[2] On June 19, 1905, Sea Lion Rock had 45 bulls stationed. On July 28 it had 2,565 pups. No count of harems could be made at the proper time. The counts of bulls and of pups, therefore, are omitted in the above table, from which an average harem is obtained, based on actual counts of both harems and pups.

On St. George, where pups on all the rookeries are counted each year, the following count was made by Agent Chichester:

Date.	Rookeries.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Dead cows.
1905.				
July 29	Zapadni	2,742	45	3
31	North	4,047	142	2
31	Staraya Artel	2,148	14	1
31	East	2,700	46	.....
31	East Reef	650	3	.....
31	Little East	412	3	.....
	Total	12,699	253	6

Contrasted with the count on St. George for 1904, which showed 13,312 live and 271 dead, a decrease of 633 pups on St. George is apparent, or 4.6 per cent.

AVERAGE HAREM.

The average harem for 1905, taken from the counts of pups just detailed, was 43.52 on St. Paul and 50.2 on St. George. In 1904 the average harem on St. Paul was 39.83; on St. George 43.59.

NUMBER OF BREEDING SEALS ON BOTH ISLANDS.

From the actual count on St. Paul of pups on certain portions of the rookeries and an estimation of the number on the remaining portions, based on the number in the average harems, a total of 1,500 harems and 65,884 breeding cows is obtained. The harems enumerated contain 45 estimated for Sea Lion Rock.

On St. George, by actual count, 258 harems and 12,952 breeding cows were found.

The total number of breeding seals on both islands, therefore, is 1,758 bulls with harems, and 78,836 cows.

From similar figures obtained in 1904, a decrease of 411 breeding bulls and 8,749 breeding cows is apparent, representing 18 per cent decrease in breeding bulls and 9 per cent decrease in breeding cows.

This percentage of decrease in cows, however, is based partially on estimation, as already stated, on St. Paul. The percentage of decrease in cows on that portion of the St. Paul rookeries, where actual counts were made, is 13.67 per cent, and is accepted by us as more accurately representing the rate of decrease than the whole census, which incorporates an element of uncertainty.

IDLE BULLS.

In 1905, as already stated, there were 119 idle bulls on St. Paul, and 22 on St. George, of all classes, or 141 for both islands. These include stationed bulls, without cows, as well as those young bulls appearing on the rookeries which leave on our approach, termed by us "quitters."

In 1904 232 idle bulls on St. Paul and 62 idle on St. George were found, or 294 for both islands. This comparison shows that there has been a decrease of 153 idle bulls on both islands since 1904, or 52 per cent.

The total number of idle bulls on the two islands in 1905, including those young males found on the rookery space but not stationed, is 7 per cent of the whole number of bulls present.

ENUMERATION OF ALL CLASSES.

It has been seen already that 1,758 breeding bulls and 78,836 adult cows were present this season, together with 141 idle bulls. In addition to this number of breeding seals, it is now desired to estimate, in accordance with the direction of the department, the total number of individuals in all classes of seal life on the two islands.

NUMBER OF HALF BULLS.

In computing the number of half bulls present on the islands, reference is had, of course, to the table of large seals rejected from the drives during the season. On St. Paul Island last summer 721 rejections occurred between the ages of 4 and 7 years. To these must be added 120 four-year-olds branded the year before and appearing in the drives this year, making a total number of 841 rejections on St. Paul Island of young male seals over 4 years of age.

On St. George Island Mr. Chichester noted 177 dismissals of seals between the ages of 4 and 6 years, both inclusive. The number of branded 4-year-olds seen there probably will bring up that number to 185.

There were, therefore, on both islands 1,026 rejections of young seals above the age of 4 and under 8 years.

It was estimated by me last year that at least 50 per cent more animals of this class were in existence than were seen in the drives.

While the estimate is believed to be too low, it was adopted because of the desire to be well within the actual number in being. On this basis the addition of 50 per cent to the number of large young rejections found on both islands would show 1,539 young males present between the ages of 4 and 7 years.

The number is nearly 500 in excess of that for the same class of animals present the preceding year. This increase is due directly to the enforcement of the regulations restricting the killing on the islands.

NUMBER OF 3-YEAR-OLD BACHELORS.

One thousand of this class of animals were branded this summer on the islands. The killings on St. Paul contained approximately 1,650 skins, weighing between $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 9 pounds, first inclusive, thus making 2,650 of this class handled.

By consulting the table of rejections we find that 37 per cent were not present in any subsequent drive. Using this percentage as a basis, and increasing the number found this summer—2,650—by 37 per cent, a total is reached of 3,630 three-year-olds present this season. Deducting the number killed—1,650—there would then remain at the close of the season 1,980 three-year-old males.

It was estimated in my report of 1904 that 5,500 two-year-olds were in existence at the close of the season. The fact that only 3,630 three-year-olds are shown by the preceding figures to have been hauled in 1905 would raise the question as to the whereabouts of the difference between these two figures, or nearly 2,000 seals. Disregarding the number of 3-year-old bachelors that may have hauled among the cows this summer and were not driven, it must be noted that the 2 and 3 year old skins merge between the weights of 7 and $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. On St. Paul 968 skins were taken weighing 7 pounds and 583 weighing $7\frac{1}{4}$ pounds. How many of these were 2-year-olds and how many were 3-year-olds can not be determined, but in them possibly lies the solution to the question as to the whereabouts of a portion of the 2,000 three-year-olds not accounted for. The mortality from natural causes, as well as that from pelagic sealing among these animals, must be considered also as having lessened the number.

NUMBER OF 2-YEAR-OLDS PRESENT.

On St. Paul, in 1905, 800 two-year-olds were branded and released and 1,005 rejections of branded 2-year-olds made during the same time. This would show that the dismissals this year of this class of animals exceeded by 25 per cent the whole number known to be branded.

The number of dismissals of small unbranded seals on St. Paul in 1905 was 5,548, of which probably 500 were yearlings. This leaves practically 5,000 rejections of two-year-olds. By the proportion of animals present, ascertained by the rejections of branded 2-year-olds, a reduction of 25 per cent from this number should be made to represent the actual number of animals embraced, which would show 3,750 two-year-olds actually present in the class of dismissed seals. Adding to this number the 800 branded, and allowing 1,000 for 2-year-old bachelors not driven, would give a total of 5,550 remaining for St. Paul.

On St. George 2,077 small rejections occurred. Deducting 25 per cent from the number, gives 1,500 animals actually present. Adding to these the 200 branded on the island, would make a total of 1,700 two-year-olds on St. George at the close of the season.

It will thus be seen that on the two islands 7,200 two-year-olds remain at the end of the season of 1905. It was estimated by me in 1904 that 21,324 yearling bachelors were then present. They would, of course, return to the islands in 1905 as 2-year-olds. An opportunity is had, therefore, of testing the value of the former estimate.

The catch this year included approximately 12,000 two-year-old skins. Adding to these the 7,200 two-year-olds estimated as still remaining, would give 19,200 two-year-olds accounted for. The difference between the estimate and the number returning to the islands, as in the case of 3-year-olds, may easily be accounted for when animals not driven are considered, as well as mortality at sea.

2-YEAR-OLD COWS.

It was estimated last year that 21,324 yearling females were present. By the methods used last year it was estimated also that 30 per cent of the yearlings of one season would perish during the migration which they would make before they would return to the islands as 2-year-olds. Applying this reduction to the 21,324 yearling cows of 1904 would bring back 14,927 two-year-old cows in 1905.

I believe this estimate of 2-year-old cows for 1905 to be well within the actual number present.

YEARLING SEALS.

In 1904 it was estimated that 87,585 pups were born on the two islands. Assuming that they were equally divided as regards sex, and allowing a 50 per cent mortality as having taken place during their first migration, would bring back to the islands in 1905, 21,896 yearling males and 21,896 yearling females.

Pelagic sealing, however, is especially destructive to this class of animals, because they spend the greater portion of their time in the water. A deduction for pelagic sealing of 3,000 from each of these classes would leave 18,896 yearling males and 18,896 yearling females present about the islands in 1905.

SUMMARY OF ALL CLASSES.

From the actual counts made, and from the estimates already detailed, it is safe to state the total number of seals of all classes present on the two islands as follows:

Bulls with harems	1,758	Breeding cows	78,836
Adult idle bulls	141	2-year-old cows	14,927
Half bulls	1,539	Yearling cows	18,896
3-year-old bachelors	1,980	New-born pups	78,836
2-year-old bachelors	7,200		
Yearling bachelors	18,896	Total	223,009

SCARCITY OF BULLS.

In connection with the increase in the average harem, from 39.83 on St. Paul and 43.59 on St. George in 1904, to 43.52 on St. Paul and 50.2 on St. George in 1905, owing to the decrease in breeding bulls occurring during the interval, it is thought necessary to call the attention of the department to the condition in which the breeding rookeries on St. Paul were found at the height of the season with reference to a sufficiency of adult males.

The presence of a smaller number of bulls on the rookeries was, of course, established early in the season before the advent of the cows by counts made upon the arrival of the bulls and a comparison of the same with those of the preceding season.

The question of the sufficiency of male life received my closest attention, and my observations were ably amplified by those of Agent Judge.

SCARCITY OF BULLS ON ROOKERIES.

As has been stated previously, 1,455 bulls with harems were found on St. Paul Island in 1905, as against 1,790 in 1904, a decrease of 335 in the number of harems. These figures exclude the harems on Sea Lion Rock.

This decrease of 335 breeding bulls represents a loss of 18 per cent. The decrease in cows on the space actually counted on St. Paul was 13.6 per cent, while the decrease on the final estimated number of cows on the whole island was 10 per cent.

Since the rate of loss in breeding bulls is larger than that in breeding cows, it must follow that the average harem in 1905 would be larger than that of the previous year, or, in plain terms, each surviving bull would be required to serve in 1905 a greater number of cows than in 1904.

ABSENCE OF IDLE BULLS ON CERTAIN ROOKERIES.

In the intermediate counts made by Mr. Judge and myself of breeding seals it was soon learned that, while there were idle bulls present on certain rookeries in sufficient number to increase proper service of the cows, on other rookeries the bulls stationed were practically all occupied with cows, leaving no surplus for emergencies.

On Ardiguen, from July 1 to 13, the 9 stationed bulls on the rookery all had cows. On July 11, at nearly the height of the season, the cows present on land on that rookery made an average harem, for all bulls stationed, of 29. This does not take into account the cows absent at sea feeding. During this period from 1 to 4 young bulls were present on the rookery, but did not succeed in getting cows and went into the water on the slightest alarm.

The average harem for this rookery (Ardiguen) as determined by the count of pups was 48.55. This means, of course, that these cows were not evenly distributed in this exact proportion, but that some bulls had twice this number, while others had correspondingly less. The number of cows present in each harem, as determined by my count on July 11, was as follows: 20, 17, 26, 31, 66, 52, 16, 29, 4.

A "quitter" or young bull was present on the date on which harems were counted, but was hauled on the extreme end of the rookery apart from the cows.

From this count it can be seen that 2 bulls had, respectively, 66 and 52 cows present in their harems at the time of the count. How many cows already served by the bull were absent at sea at this date from these large harems is not possible to state, but as our count of pups showed that at the height of the season not over 60 per cent of cows were present on the rookery, the addition of 40 per cent to these large harems would bring the total number of cows served by these two harem masters to 72 and 92, respectively.

NO IDLE BULLS ON AMPHITHEATER.

On the Amphitheater of Ketovi, from July 5 to July 23 (after which date no further counts were made by us), there were no bulls stationed that were not employed with cows, except on July 8, when one bull was idle for that day only. During the period from July 8 to 11 three young "quitters" were present without cows. After that date two of them, so far as we know, obtained cows in independent harems. The third either disappeared from the rookery or took the place of an old bull exhausted by rookery work. At the height of the season there were 12 bulls on the rookery, all occupied with cows.

On Ketovi rookery during the height of the season not over 3 stationed idle bulls were present. On July 21 all bulls on this rookery were engaged with cows. On July 13 out of the 57 bulls stationed 54 had cows.

This rookery, it will be noted, received a steady accession of bulls up to the 19th of July, when 60 bulls were stationed and 59 occupied with cows. On the 16th of June, by which date all bulls, according to the old reports, are expected to have arrived and stationed themselves, there were only 42 stationed and 7 young "quitters."

On Lagoon, on July 13, 25 bulls were present and 23 had cows. One "quitter" was present.

On Lukanin, on July 11, 46 bulls were stationed and 43 had harems. On July 13, 45 were stationed and 43 had harems. On the 11th there was one "quitter," and on the 13th 2 "quitters." The greatest number of cows were present on these two days.

On Vostoshni, the west side of Northeast Point, when harems were counted on July 16, 32 bulls were present, all of which had cows. On this rookery, or rather this end of Northeast Point rookery, the average harem was 56.

On Morjovi, the east side of Northeast Point, 20 bulls were stationed, each having a harem. A "quitter" was present on an abandoned portion of the rookery. The average harem on this side was 34.

On the entire rookery at Northeast Point at the height of the season, July 16, 378 bulls were stationed. Of these 362 were masters of harems, leaving 16 idle. As the shore line of this rookery, the largest on either island, extends over 3 miles, the presence of only 16 idle bulls on this entire stretch of rookery space is significant.

At this time 11 quitters were noted in addition. These undoubtedly found cows later.

On Polovina, out of 56 bulls present on July 16, when harems were counted, only 3 were idle. There were 3 quitters or young bulls present also. The average harem on this rookery was 62.64.

On Polovina Cliff, out of 36 bulls present on July 16, none were idle. One young quitter was present in addition.

On Little Polovina, on the same date, 12 bulls were stationed and all had cows. There were no quitters. On this rookery the largest average harem on the island was found—76.5. This, in connection with the fact that no idle bulls were present, emphasizes a scarcity of bulls in this locality. On the Reef, where harems were counted on July 13, 275 stationed bulls were found. Of these 261 had harems, leaving 14 idle. Had the harems on this rookery been counted three days later a much smaller number of idle bulls probably would have been found. Five quitters were present also.

On Tolstoi, out of 143 bulls stationed, 136 were engaged with cows on July 14 and 7 were idle. These idle bulls would have been quitters on another rookery, but on Tolstoi, being behind the mass and rather far inland, they were not able on our approach to reach the water without traversing the rookery area and being severely handled by bulls. They retreated only a short distance on our approach and were termed "idle bulls."

On Tolstoi Cliff 35 bulls were stationed on July 14, and all had cows. Three quitters were present on the water line.

On Zapadni 200 bulls were found on July 14, and of these 21 were idle, in addition to 7 quitters.

On Little Zapadni, on July 14, 81 bulls were stationed. Of these 78 were occupied with cows and 3 were found idle. There were also 3 quitters.

On Zapadni Reef, on the same date, 32 stationed bulls were found, of which only 2 were idle. There were no quitters.

On Gorbatch, out of 124 stationed bulls, only 2 were idle on July 13, when harems were counted. Six quitters were present.

On Gorbatch Cliff, on July 13, of 10 bulls found, all were occupied with harems.

PERCENTAGE OF IDLE BULLS.

It will be seen, thus, that of the whole number of bulls present only a very small number were idle, and in the cases of certain rookeries there were no idle bulls at the height of the season.

The quitters at the climax of the sealing season are young bulls, full of procreative power and desirous of the female, but not yet fully equipped in either weight or courage. I have noted repeatedly young bulls with harems which sometimes would number a dozen cows plunge into the sea at my approach. The possession of cows, however, gives courage, and I have been chased repeatedly by young quitters that previously gave ground, but which had gotten a cow or two and with them the courage to fight for a continuance of their possession.

A quitter, however, is not a rookery bull until he is in possession of cows. It is not proper to class as an idle bull a young male that presents himself only in a place on the rookery where there are no cows, and therefore where there is no rivalry. The quitter generally sees no service until after the vigilance of the regular bulls is relaxed, and

the served cows wander almost at will over the rookeries in search of their pups.

In determining, therefore, the percentage of idle bulls present at the height of the season no account will be taken of the quitters. A list of these, however, is added for the purpose of showing the full rookery population:

Rookeries.	Stationed bulls.	Idle.	Quitters.	Per cent idle.
Ardiguen	9			
Amphi	12			
Ketovi	57	3	2	5
Lagoon	25	2	1	8
Lukanin	45	2	2	4
Northeast Point	378	16	11	4
Polovina	56	3	3	5
Polovina Cliff	36		1	
Little Polovina	12			
Reef	275	14	5	5
Tolstoi Cliff	35		3	
Zapadni	200	21	7	10
Little Zapadni	81	3	3	3
Zapadni Reef	32	2		6
Gorbatch	124	2	6	1
Gorbatch Cliff	10			
Tolstoi	143	7		4
Total	1,530	75	44	4.8

It can be seen, therefore, that without the inclusion of the quitters or young bulls not stationed only 4.8 per cent of all stationed bulls present were idle at the height of the season on St. Paul. If we were to include the 44 quitters, the percentage of idle would be only 7.5. But as these young bulls not stationed can not be counted upon for service until after the season is over, we must accept the percentage of idle bulls during the breeding season as being only 4.8.

IDLE BULLS MARK THE SAFETY LIMIT.

In my report for 1903 I stated that the presence or absence of idle bulls was the only means of proving whether or not there is a sufficiency of male life:

> With a number of idle bulls present we are certain that the powers of the harem masters are not unduly taxed. Eliminate the idle bulls entirely, however, and we are forced to theorize in the treatment of the question whether the number of bulls is sufficient, and whether all cows are impregnated. The destruction of the supply of idle bulls, therefore, marks the line beyond which it is improper to go with absolute certainty of safety.

At the time this was written I was not aware of the presence, in the report of Fur-Seal Investigations on the Pribilof Islands, 1896–7, of a statement by Mr. Frederick W. Lucas of similar effect to that in my report just quoted. The extract from Mr. Lucas's paper is here given, as the statement of a scientist, at a time when the condition under discussion was expected never to occur:

> The size of the harems and the number of surplus bulls is a safe guide to the condition of the rookeries for breeding purposes, the increase or decrease of the total number of seals being naturally quite another thing, although the two should be carefully compared with one another. If the number of surplus bulls is large and the size of harems small, either the rookeries are shrinking or the number of bulls increasing, and immediate steps should be taken to ascertain which is the case, in order to decide whether more seals may be advantageously killed, or whether there is an unexpected

number of deaths among the cows. The total disappearance of the idle, waiting, or reserved bulls, as they have been variously called, would be a warning of the most emphatic nature to immediately lessen the number to be killed, for since the seal herd is for a great portion of the year quite beyond the control of man it will always be necessary to allow a liberal margin of bulls for breeding purposes.

It is submitted that "the total disappearance" of idle bulls is imminent when only 4 per cent of this class is present. How many of these idle bulls have physical defects which preclude an active engagement in the duties of a harem master, and consequently force them into the idle class, is not possible to tell. With the probability that some of these idle bulls may be physically incompetent, it is thought that the situation this summer nearly represents a practical disappearance of the reserve or waiting bulls.

IDLE BULLS ABSENT ON CERTAIN ROOKERIES.

It is certain, at least, that some of the rookeries on the island present the condition of having no idle or reserve bulls. These are Gorbatch Cliff, Ardiguen, Amphitheater of Ketovi, Little Polovina, Polovina Cliff, and Tolstoi Cliff.

These are nearly all ends of larger rookeries, and it may be said in their defense, first, that they occupy a narrow shore line under cliffs which do not permit of the stationing of a great number of seals at any time; and, secondly, that as the diminution in seals is most apparent on the thinly settled ends of rookeries, it will probably show more plainly on these parts mentioned than on the main rookeries themselves.

But when it is remembered that at the season's height only 2 idle bulls were found on Gorbatch, which had an estimated number of 5,309 cows; only 3 idle on Ketovi, with 1,858 breeding cows, actually present, as was shown by a count of pups; only 2 idle on Lukanin, with 1,841 cows present by count; 3 on Little Zapadni, with 3,394 cows estimated; only 3 on Little Polovina, with 3,320 cows counted, and only 7 on Tolstoi, with 5,918 cows estimated, it can be seen that even on the central rookeries, where space for expansion is practically unlimited and where 10 years ago thousands of idle bulls were to be found, the number of idle bulls is so small as to be practically unserviceable.

SUPPLY OF IDLE BULLS NOT MOBILE.

The idle bulls present during the summer are stationed, and as a rule do not move from their positions until after the harems have broken up. If they were available, as the reserve corps of an army, to be moved from place to place in support of others hard pressed, greater service from them could be secured. But such is not the case. A mass of 1,000 cows might have but a few bulls in its midst upon whom probably rookery duties fell heavily, while a hundred yards away idle bulls may be found, tenacious of their position, but apparently still waiting for cows to come to them.

In this respect the fur seal can not be compared to the wild deer, kine, or horse, the male of which species searches for the female. They can not be compared to any animal, in fact, except that of which the male remains in one spot and is sought by the female.

In view of this immobility of stationed bulls, therefore, a healthy condition of the rookeries will require, to my mind, enough surplus bulls that they may be stationed at intervals over the entire length of the rookeries to take advantage of the first symptom of weakness in a harem master, and by worsting him in battle gain possession of his harem. This, in my opinion, is the normal condition which must exist in nature, and is the condition which as nearly as possible should be maintained on the rookeries under the supervision of man.

BACHELORS ON BREEDING GROUNDS.

There were so few bulls on certain rookeries on St. Paul Island this summer that, by reason of their scarcity, the harems were broken up before the usual period and bachelors were able to haul among the cows.

This occurred at a date when these young seals should have been excluded from the breeding grounds by vigilant bulls, and then forced to haul up, if they desired to haul at all, only on the bachelor's hauling ground.

This condition, in our opinion, is due to the scarcity of breeding males on the rookeries generally, and to their being so taxed in special localities with the service of the cows that they were unable or unwilling to drive out the bachelors. Had idle bulls been sufficiently numerous this condition would not have occurred.

EVIDENCES OF SCARCITY OF BULLS.

The decrease in bulls, as compared with previous seasons, was early known by our daily counts. When harems were counted on St. Paul Island by Mr. Judge and myself this summer, it was noted that less difficulty was experienced by us from vicious bulls than ever before.

In counting harems it is necessary often to obtain a position commanding as well a good view of beach line and plateau. These positions are usually surrounded by bulls with harems. To gain them it is necessary to drive off these bulls, and to hold them away during the few minutes necessary to complete the count in that locality. This is done by means of several agile native men and light bamboo poles about 10 feet in length. In thus going among the bulls, more or less difficulty is encountered.

Several years ago certain vantage points on the Reef, Tolstoi, and Zapadni Points were absolutely unattainable by reason of the number and aggressiveness of bulls present. This year no trouble whatever was experienced in reaching these points. Where hitherto we were obliged to drive bulls off in certain places, none were encountered. In others we went directly into the mass of bulls with the aid of only two boys, and could stand there without any serious danger. In masses little aggressiveness was found. As contrasted with our experience of past years, this condition was so unusual as to cause immediate remark.

CONDITION AT NORTHEAST POINT.

A large mass of seals has always been present at Northeast Point, under Hutchinson Hill. Harems on this rookery were counted July 16, a date when compactness in the rookery formation should be

greatest. It was surprising, therefore, to see at this time cows scattered loosely all over the sand flat under the hill, the disintegrated mass extending from the beach line back to the hill. At first glance this was attributed to the heavy rain falling at the time, creating puddles of filthy slime, and supposedly causing the cows to scatter out in search of firmer ground.

As I was taking photographs of the rookeries, I went ahead to make the necessary exposures before the formation of the cows should be disturbed by the counting of the harems. Mr. Judge followed with two natives and made the count. He stated that the bulls were practically docile and that no trouble was experienced in penetrating the mass of seals. He stated, also, that in his opinion the bulls were taxed to such an extent as to have virtually lost control of the breeding grounds, and that this was the reason for their unusual amiability. He noted also that a great proportion of the supposed cows scattered about were bachelors.

On July 20 we again visited the point to kill seals as well as to observe the mass and to take additional photographs. On that date the mass had the same loose appearance as on the 16th. No bachelors could be seen on the usual hauling grounds on either side of the hill from which the drive was to be made the following day. Although a close inspection could not be made without the risk of stampeding what seals were there, from the top of the hill bachelors could be seen among the cows, especially the branded ones, their shaved heads being conspicuous marks.

On the next day, July 21, a drive was made from this rookery and no bachelors were gotten from the hauling grounds under Hutchinson Hill. A small drive was secured from two other hauling grounds, from which only 109 skins were taken and 234 seals dismissed.

The insignificance of this killing from the largest rookery on the island at a season of the year when small bachelors are supposed to be most plentiful on land, and when a thousand seals in a drive would not have been unusual, was startling.

This failure of bachelors on the hauling ground was looked upon as a verification of the result of our observations on the 16th. As the rookery now could be inspected closely without danger of stampeding killable seals, Mr. Judge and Mr. Redpath, the latter going at my request while I counted skins in the salt house, went to Hutchinson Hill to make a critical examination of the body of seals hauled under it. The situation found can best be described by quoting from Mr. Judge's notes:

> The bachelors could be seen in considerable numbers at the foot of the hill and along both sides of the triangle forming the mass. Bulls were very scarce. Only 1 bull was on the hill. He had a harem of 12 cows. No other bull was within 100 feet of the base of the hill. Cows, pups, and bachelors were huddled together. The bachelors are cleaner than the cows, and generally show silvery breasts, while cows show breasts of dirty yellow. Bachelors play a good deal, while there is very little playing among the cows. Seven branded bachelors were observed among the lot.
>
> At close range the bachelors were more easily distinguished. There is no doubt in my mind that the number of bachelors mixed with the cows under Hutchinson Hill exceeded those driven this morning, namely, 343 of all sizes.
>
> Mr. Redpath was of the opinion that most of the bachelors seen would have been undersize for killing.

The result of the investigation by Mr. Judge and Mr. Redpath verified the conclusion reached on the 16th, that the bulls, being few in numbers, were overtaxed, and had lost control of the breeding ground.

Taking advantage of this condition, the bachelors had hauled among the cows, which accounted for the smallness of the drive on the 21st.

The absolute necessity for the presence of idle bulls is here emphasized. Had there been enough of this class present the places of overtaxed bulls would have been usurped, and the rookery discipline maintained with even increased vigor. At this particular point, however, there were no idle bulls.

CONDITION ON OTHER ROOKERIES.

Having found this situation to exist at Northeast Point, it was thought possible that perhaps the same existed at Polovina and Tolstoi, from which rookeries practically no bachelors have been driven for several years.

A stop was made at Polovina on our way from Northeast Point on the 21st, and Messrs. Judge and Redpath and myself visited that rookery. We were not able to verify our assumption with regard to this rookery. By reason of the flatness of the approach to it, only the rearmost harems could be inspected, and those only with caution, lest the cows be stampeded. While we found six 2-year old bachelors in two small harems at the rear, we found also the harem formations to be much better preserved than at Hutchinson Hill. The bulls seemed active in preventing the escape of the cows and in rounding them up into their harems.

The fact, however, remains that only 3 idle bulls were found on this rookery at the height of the season. That the bulls present with cows were still able to maintain their harems on the 21st is more a tribute to their vitality than proof that enough adult males were present.

On the 23d Mr. Judge examined Reef rookery. He found that the bachelors there were hauling by themselves, and did not see any evidences of weakness in bulls.

On the 24th Mr. Judge visited Tolstoi to discover whether bachelors were present there among the cows. He found, he stated, at least one-fourth of the supposed cows present to consist of bachelors, which, as we believe, are permitted to haul among the cows by reason of the absence of idle bulls, which, even at this late date, would be eager to preserve the harems intact.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CONDITION.

This condition apparent at Hutchinson Hill and at Tolstoi (although in a greater degree at the first-mentioned place) gives us, so far as we know, the first intimation that at certain localities on the island bulls are not present in sufficient numbers to maintain a first-class rookery service.

This situation, in the cases noted, carries with it its own remedy. The scarcity of bulls allows the bachelors and half bulls to mingle with the cows. These young animals, 3 years of age and over, are competent to perform the functions of procreation. Their presence among the cows, in my opinion, insures service to all cows in heat not reached at once by a bull.

PRESENT REGULATIONS AMPLE.

The present scarcity of bulls is attributable directly to close killing on land, from which not enough bachelors were allowed to escape from the killing fields to maintain the requisite proportion of bulls.

For the last two years, however, regulations have been in force on the islands as the result of which a considerable number of bachelors are exempted from killing and allowed to escape. The animals thus saved are not old enough to appear upon the rookeries. It will be necessary for two more years to elapse before these animals may be counted upon. From that time, however, with the continuance of the regulations, it is believed that an ample supply of bulls will be present.

PRESENT REGULATIONS SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

Since it appears that a scarcity of bulls is threatened on the islands, and, in fact, has occurred actually on several of the rookery spaces on St. Paul, any change in the present regulations looking to a lessening of the restrictions placed on killing on the islands would be wholly unwise.

The result of these regulations can not be felt before 1907, as has in effect been stated. During the interval which must elapse before that time a steady decrease in bulls will be encountered. The closest killing on land occurred during the seasons of 1902 and 1903. In the latter season the lessees released from the drives on St. Paul only 983 small seals. This practical annihilation of bachelors for this year will be felt on the rookeries four years thereafter, or in 1907.

Since we are obliged to face in 1906 and 1907 this extra heavy decrease occurring from the closer killing in 1902 and 1903, no reduction in the number of bachelors now saved on the islands should be made until the rookeries themselves show an influx of male life sufficient to more than offset the yearly mortality.

SIMILAR CONDITION ON RUSSIAN ISLANDS.

The condition of a scarcity of bulls on certain rookeries and the presence of bachelors among the cows has existed on the Russian Commander Islands for years.

On the rookeries of Bering Island it has been the practice, in obtaining bachelors for killing, to drive off the entire rookery in order to pick out the bachelors from among the cows and pups.

It is stated by Dr. Stejneger, in his report on the Commander Islands (Rept. Fur-Seal Inves., pt. 4, p. 222), that this is no new feature due to the decrease in seals, and that the same thing took place in 1882 and 1883, in the palmiest days of the sealing business.

It must not be overlooked, however, that the rookeries on which Dr. Stejneger states this unusual driving occurs in recent years have had few bulls and a large average harem. On page 99 of the report cited it is stated that in the drive of North rookery, August 22, 1895, 3,000 cows and only 8 bulls were driven. While this was so late in the season as to form no idea as to the number of bulls present at the season's height, it shows, at least, that bulls there were very scarce.

On South rookery in July, 1897, on this same island, Dr. Stejneger counted 526 cows and only 2 bulls.

While not desiring to oppose Dr. Stejneger's theory that a sufficiency of bulls were present on these rookeries, I desire to point out that the presence of bachelors among cows is found coincident with a scarcity of bulls on both the Commander and the Pribilof Islands. Without hazarding any opinion as to the cause of this condition on the Commander Islands, our judgment is that on the Pribilofs the presence of bachelors among cows in such unusual numbers is due to a scarcity of bulls.

LIMIT TO PROCREATIVE POWER OF BULLS.

Much has been said of the wonderful procreative power of bulls, and the theory has been advanced that a bull can serve without discomfort as many cows as he is able to get and hold.

Our experience this summer has convinced us that there is a limit to a bull's capacity, and that the bulls on the rookeries at the height of the season had come nearer to reaching it than ever before in our knowledge. When it was possible on July 13 to penetrate the mass of breeding seals on the Reef, and on July 14 that on Zapadni, meeting with no more opposition than could be met successfully by two men armed with light poles, it must be believed that the bulls at these places were taxed to such a limit as to be shorn of most of their aggressiveness. On July 16 Mr. Judge with two men went through the mass under Hutchinson Hill on the plateau near the shore line, and experienced but little trouble. To have done this five years ago with the same mass would have been impossible.

ALL COWS WERE SERVED.

There is no intention to convey the meaning that the cows on the Pribilofs suffered from lack of service. No evidence to that effect could be found. The presence of bachelors among the cows is an additional assurance that none were suffered to go without impregnation. It is intended to show only that in performing rookery service this year the harem masters were put to greater exertion than before observed by us.

This, taken in connection with the lack of a sufficiency of idle bulls, demonstrates that the regulations of the department restricting killing should be rigidly enforced in their present state until such time as the rookeries show a greater proportion of bulls present.

CENSUS OF NATIVE INHABITANTS.

Censuses of both islands, taken June 30, 1905, are herewith submitted as exhibits.

That of St. Paul shows 164 actual residents, of which 82 are males and 82 females. Seven deaths and 8 births occurred during the year. There were 2 departures and 4 arrivals, making a net increase in population on St. Paul of 3 individuals.

The census of St. George shows 89 actual residents. During the year 5 deaths and no births occurred on the island. One native arrived from St. Paul and 2 natives departed to reside on St. Paul.

The census of St. George therefore shows a net decrease in the population during the year of 6 individuals.

The total population of both islands, taken from the above censuses, is 253 actual residents, a decrease of 3 from those of 1904.

DIVISION OF NATIVE EARNINGS.

The earnings of the St. Paul natives during the season ended August, 1905, for taking 13,000 fur-seal skins at 50 cents each, and 8 sea-lion skins at $2 each, were $6,516, which sum was divided among the native sealers in the manner detailed in the exhibit hereto attached, marked "Division of natives' earnings, St. Paul Island, Alaska, season of 1905." The amounts allotted to each sealer, as noted on the division, have been placed to the credit of each, respectively, and are being disbursed for the purchase of articles necessary to their maintenance on orders issued by the Government agent.

The earnings of the St. George natives for taking 258 blue-fox skins at $5 each and 10 white-fox skins at $1 each, during the season of 1904–5, amounted to $1,300. Their earnings during the same season for taking 1,368 sealskins at 50 cents a skin amounted to $684. These amounts are being disbursed for maintenance in the same manner as the earnings on St. Paul.

A copy of the St. George seal division is submitted herewith as an exhibit. The fox division is to be found as an exhibit to Agent Judge's report, which is also attached as an exhibit.

APPORTIONMENT OF GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION.

The appropriation of $19,500 made by the Government for the support of these natives during the fiscal year 1906, after deducting $9,625 for 385 tons of coal to be delivered during that period, was apportioned between the two islands by allotting $5,210 to St. Paul and $4,665 to St. George.

The deduction for coal was made at the rate of $25 per ton, at which rate I was instructed by the department to anticipate payment. As I understand, the department has since fixed a rate of $20 a ton, the difference of $1,925 on the amount ordered, caused by the reduction of the rate by $5 a ton, will be used for the purchase of articles needed by the natives, but of which they are now deprived by this threatened increase in the price of coal.

In the middle of March, 1905, the natives' supply of coal on St. Paul, which was required to last them until the following June, was reduced to about 20 tons. The natives after that date were required to gather driftwood to heat their dwellings until the arrival of the company's vessel in June.

COMPANY'S EXPENDITURES UNDER LEASE.

Under that portion of the department's instructions to me whereby I am directed to obtain from the lessee of the sealing right a statement of its expenditures in complying with that portion of its contract requiring it to provide schools, dwellings, houses of worship, and physicians and medical attendance for the native inhabitants of

the seal islands and the necessaries of life for "widows, orphans, aged and infirm inhabitants" of the same, I requested the general agent of the lessee, Mr. Redpath, to furnish me with the necessary data on the subject.

That for St. George Island was delivered to Agent Chichester, on that island, and by him transmitted to me. It is herewith inclosed as an exhibit.

The statement for St. Paul was promised. Not being forthcoming at the time of the departure of the company's vessel, in August, I made a second request, in person, for its delivery. I was informed in reply, by Mr. Davis, the lessee company's secretary, who was on St. Paul at the time, that the data necessary to make the statement would be sent to the company's office at San Francisco, and the report furnished me there.

Upon my arrival at San Francisco I requested Mr. Taylor to furnish me with the information, which he agreed to do. He stated that he would forward the same at his earliest opportunity.

Not having received the data mentioned on October 12, I addressed a formal letter to the president of the North American Commercial Co., requesting to be furnished with the statement desired by the department, to which no reply has been received. A copy of my letter to the company is hereto attached as an exhibit.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ROOKERIES.

Photographs of the rookeries were taken this summer on either island and the plates forwarded to the department. It is regretted that the rain and fog, present to an unusual degree on the islands at the height of the season, interfered with the quality of some of the negatives obtained.

FOXES ON THE ISLANDS.

No trapping of foxes was allowed on St. Paul Island during the winter of 1904–5, owing to their extreme scarcity.

During the past two winters fox life on St. Paul has undoubtedly been at a lower ebb than at any time in the island's history. Warrens and fox trails are deserted. A solitary fox track was seen here and there in the snow during the last winter. No foxes were seen around the village. No feeding could be done, had it been attempted for no foxes were seen to feed.

During the summer just passed, however, foxes on St. Paul could be seen in comparatively larger numbers. In our trips to Zapadni and Northeast Point several foxes could be seen on every trip. One white fox shot by me during the winter on the Reef was thickly covered with blubber and had a stomach full of arrie feathers.

It is believed that the nucleus remaining on the island has sufficient food and is increasing in numbers. It is not known when trapping on St. Paul can again be taken up.

The fox question on St. George is ably dealt with in the report of Agent Judge, herewith submitted. I can do no better than to refer the department to his report for information as to the condition of fox life on that island.

During the early portion of the winter of 1904–5 natives visited Otter Island, and after a week's trapping returned with the pelts of 31 blue foxes and 2 whites. The natives report that they did not kill all the foxes on that island. No trapping has been done on Otter Island since 1894, when, as I understand, all foxes there at that time were killed. Those killed there last winter probably reached there from St. Paul on the northern drift ice.

LIST OF EXHIBITS.

The following list of exhibits to this report is appended for reference:

No. 1. Report of Agent James Judge, St. George, 1905.
No. 2. Annual statement seals killed, St. Paul, 1905.
No. 3. Certificate of sealskins shipped, St. Paul, 1905.
No. 4. Weights of sealskins taken, St. Paul, 1905.
No. 5. Counts of rookeries, St. Paul, 1905.
No. 6. Statistics of killings, St. Paul, 1905.
No. 7. Census of native inhabitants, St. Paul, 1905.
No. 8. Division of natives' earnings, St. Paul, 1905.
No. 9. Copy of letter requesting statistics, St. Paul, 1905.
No. 10. Annual statement seals killed, St. George, 1905.
No. 11. Weights of sealskins taken, St. George, 1905.
No. 12. Counts of rookeries, St. George, 1905.
No. 13. Seals released from drives, St. George, 1905.
No. 14. Statistics of branding, St. George, 1905.
No. 15. Counts of live pups, St. George, 1905.
No. 16. Seal division, natives' earnings, St. George, 1905.
No. 17. Census of native inhabitants, St. George, 1905.
No. 18. Expenditures by company for support natives, St. George, 1905.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

EXHIBIT 1.

REPORT OF AGENT JAMES JUDGE.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, *June 5, 1905.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of affairs on St. George Island, covering the interval from August 14, 1904, to date:

SEALS.

On October 7 Little East rookery was carefully gone over for the purpose of counting dead pups, but none were found.

At that season foxes in greater or less numbers are always present on the rookeries and quickly eat the pups or older animals that may happen to die. Pup skulls were frequently found during September in the rear of the rookeries, where they had undoubtedly been left by the foxes, the bodies having been devoured.

Further counting of dead pups was therefore not attempted, as it seemed a disturbance of the seals to no good purpose.

The first food drive was made October 19; killed 59; dismissed 6 large, 197 small, and 6 brands. Two of the latter were from St. Paul. While all brands were very faint, those made with shears were less discernible than those made with hot irons. Just the slightest trace of a brand on one of the dead informed us that the wrong animal had been knocked down. The skin weighed 8 pounds. That other 3-year-olds branded in the spring, on which the fur had grown out so that the brand had become obliterated, were also killed is more than probable, as 69 per cent of the dead skins weighed 7 pounds and over, the heaviest weighing 9 pounds.

The average of this class of animals killed from the 20th to the 30th of last July was 43 per cent, while that on St. Paul during the entire sealing season was only 34 per cent. The paucity of branded seals in the drive as compared with drives made in July lead to the same conclusion. (See statistics regular killing for quota 1904.)

At all subsequent killings I endeavored to restrict the slaughter to 2-year-olds, with considerable success.

October 24 a food drive was made from East rookery and 30 killed. Among this lot 2 skins were found that had been branded, but the brands were too faint for detection while the animal was alive. These skins weighed 6¼ pounds each.

That other branded 2-year-olds on which the brands had entirely disappeared were killed during the autumn is more than probable, but for this there was no apparent remedy without a radical revision of the rules governing sizes.

To remove all possibility of killing branded seals in the fall on which the brands have become indistinct it will be necessary to prohibit the slaughter of any animal the skin of which weighs over 6 pounds. This will confine the killing to animals with skins weighing not less than 5½ nor more than 6 pounds. Such a rule is hardly practicable.

In my opinion, however, a relaxation of the minimum rule as regards weights of skins should be permitted at food killings on St. George. Out of 197 small dismissed October 19 only 21, so far as I could judge, were yearlings. The natives had had no fresh meat since July 30, and I think that in justice to them they should have been permitted to have killed some of the 176 small 2-year-olds turned off, even if the skins fell somewhat below 5½ pounds. None of the meat secured on this island in the fall is wasted; every pound of it is carefully saved. A sharp lookout is kept for all available seals in the vicinity of the village, and in addition the natives make trips to Zapadni, kill what seals are found, and carry the meat on their backs to the village, a distance of over 5 miles.

Presuming that branding of bachelors is to continue, a rule fixing a maximum weight of 7 pounds for food skins taken in the fall would save the 3-year-olds, which I take to be the all-important object.

The number of seals to be killed by the natives of St. George for food should not be less than 500 per annum, though it is doubtful if such number with merchantable pelts could be secured. The number determined on last year for food for the natives of this island, viz, 300, is inadequate and insufficient.

I do not object to limiting the total killing on the island, but simply wish to enlarge the number that may be killed in the fall for autumn and winter use.

The natives should be given all the latitude possible for securing a liberal supply of meat, the company taking such number of skins the following summer as will complete its quota if it can be done. Fifty-three skins were taken November 3 and 25 November 4. These animals were culled out by the natives from among the cows and pups on the rookeries. Branded bachelors were not observed on either occasion nor at any time thereafter. Small pods of seals were taken at intervals until November 23, when 10 were secured at Staraya Artel.

The total fall killing was 235, which comprises all seal meat the natives have had since last July. For weights of skins as taken at the different killings, see Exhibit A.

On May 16, after these skins had laid in salt all winter and were, therefore, in about the condition they will reach market, I reweighed them on a scoop scale and also measured them, with the following results:

Skins.	Weight.	Length.	Breadth.	Circumference.
	Lbs. oz.	*Inches.*	*Inches.*	*Inches.*
4	4 14	$31\frac{3}{4}$	$24\frac{1}{4}$	$96\frac{1}{2}$
3	4 15	33	$24\frac{1}{3}$	98
2	5 0	$37\frac{1}{2}$	25	107
1	5 1	34	25	103
1	5 3	33	25	98
4	5 4	$35\frac{3}{4}$	25	$104\frac{1}{2}$
4	5 5	$35\frac{1}{4}$	$26\frac{3}{4}$	$105\frac{3}{4}$
5	5 6	$32\frac{2}{5}$	$25\frac{1}{5}$	100
5	5 7	$35\frac{2}{5}$	$26\frac{1}{5}$	105
8	5 8	$35\frac{1}{5}$	$25\frac{5}{8}$	$102\frac{1}{8}$
10	5 9	34	$26\frac{7}{10}$	$101\frac{7}{10}$
5	5 10	$35\frac{2}{5}$	$25\frac{1}{5}$	105
3	5 11	$34\frac{3}{3}$	$26\frac{3}{3}$	$103\frac{3}{3}$
12	5 12	$34\frac{8}{12}$	$26\frac{9}{12}$	$104\frac{1}{12}$
5	5 14	$36\frac{1}{5}$	$25\frac{1}{5}$	105
4	5 15	38	$25\frac{1}{4}$	$108\frac{3}{4}$
5	5 13	37	$25\frac{2}{5}$	107
15	6 0	$35\frac{7}{15}$	$26\frac{5}{15}$	$104\frac{8}{15}$
3	6 1	$36\frac{1}{3}$	$27\frac{1}{3}$	107
9	6 2	$35\frac{5}{9}$	$26\frac{1}{9}$	$104\frac{6}{9}$
6	6 3	$35\frac{2}{6}$	$26\frac{5}{6}$	$106\frac{5}{6}$
8	6 4	$35\frac{7}{8}$	$25\frac{6}{8}$	$104\frac{4}{8}$
6	6 5	$36\frac{5}{6}$	$28\frac{2}{6}$	$109\frac{1}{6}$
4	6 7	$35\frac{3}{4}$	$26\frac{2}{4}$	105
7	6 8	36	$26\frac{2}{7}$	$104\frac{3}{7}$
3	6 9	$37\frac{1}{3}$	$26\frac{2}{3}$	$109\frac{2}{3}$
3	6 10	$35\frac{3}{3}$	$27\frac{3}{3}$	107
5	6 11	35	$26\frac{3}{5}$	105
12	6 12	$36\frac{8}{12}$	$28\frac{4}{12}$	109
2	6 13	36	28	108
8	6 14	$39\frac{1}{8}$	$27\frac{6}{8}$	$112\frac{7}{8}$
3	6 15	$35\frac{2}{3}$	$29\frac{1}{3}$	$110\frac{2}{3}$
9	7 0	$36\frac{5}{9}$	$28\frac{3}{9}$	$109\frac{1}{9}$
1	7 1	35	25	105
7	7 2	$37\frac{3}{7}$	$24\frac{1}{7}$	$108\frac{1}{7}$
1	7 3	38	28	106
7	7 4	$36\frac{5}{7}$	$28\frac{2}{7}$	$111\frac{2}{7}$
4	7 5	$38\frac{3}{4}$	$28\frac{2}{4}$	$112\frac{3}{4}$
2	7 7	39	$27\frac{1}{2}$	$110\frac{1}{2}$
4	7 8	38	$27\frac{1}{4}$	112
3	7 9	$35\frac{2}{3}$	29	109
1	7 10	38	28	114
1	7 11	39	27	110
4	7 12	39	29	$113\frac{1}{2}$
5	7 13	$37\frac{4}{5}$	$27\frac{2}{5}$	$110\frac{4}{5}$
1	7 14	39	29	112
1	7 15	43	31	125
1	8 2	38	28	113
1	8 7	38	27	110
1	8 8	42	31	126
1	9 0	41	31	118
6	6 6	$36\frac{5}{6}$	$27\frac{3}{6}$	108

The above includes one 5-pound skin taken from an animal found dead in August.

In this work I was assisted by the natives. The skins were stretched on an improvised table, and in measuring for length a tapeline was run down the middle from the neck to base of tail, for breadth across both flipper holes, and for circumference the outer edge was taken.

Considerable disparity is found between the different weights and corresponding circumferences showing that the heavier skin is not always the larger one, nor is it necessarily taken from an older animal. In fact, it appears that the weights of skins as taken on the island only approximate the ages of the animals slaughtered, as it is quite possible for the skins of different animals of the same age to vary greatly in weight, depending on the amount of blubber adhering to the pelt.

The company have a set of linen patterns which profess to represent the average size of the different skins sold in London for four years, ending with 1895, giving weights and trade names. Dr. Mills and I ironed these patterns, and measured them in the same way the skins were measured, with the following results:

Trade names.	Weights.	Length.	Breadth.	Circumference.
	Lbs. oz.	*Inches.*	*Inches.*	*Inches.*
Middlings	14 0	61	34	134
Middlings and small	11 0	46½	32½	127
Smalls	9 4	40	29½	116
Large pups	7 14	39	26¾	108
Middling pups	7 0	36	26	104
Small pups	6 0	34	24	95
Extra small pups	4 12	30½	22¾	87

By comparing the above measurements with that shown in the tables on pages 4 and 5 it will be seen that in trade nomenclature none of the class which would be designated extra small pups were killed last fall, neither were any so-called middlings, and only two that would go into the class middlings and smalls. More of the latter designation would have been secured had the killing of large animals not been curtailed, as explained on page 2.

While the facilities at the salt house for measuring the skins were meager, the general correctness of the results obtained is verified by the table shown on page 5 and also by a similar table prepared by Lampson & Co. in 1892, to be found in volume 8, page 917, Fur-Seal Arbitration.

In assorting fur seals for size the above firm is guided mainly by the measurement. (Ibid., 916.)

The total weight of the skins as taken last autumn was 1,531 pounds, that in May 1,488, showing an apparent loss of 43 pounds while in salt. The scales used in the fall were small spring balances registering nothing less than a quarter pound. In taking the weights and measurements in May I wanted to be as correct as possible, and to that end borrowed the store scales, which registered ounces.

These scales, however, had been here a long time and, besides needing constant attention to keep them balanced, were not very sensitive. Much of the apparent difference in weight is therefore in reality a difference in scales.

Early in December the rookeries were deserted, but considerable numbers of seals could be seen in the adjacent water until Christmas. Occasionally during the winter the natives reported having seen a seal in the ocean.

The earliest bulls this season arrived—one on North and another on Zapadni—May 2. One arrived on East May 3, one on Little East May 6, and one on Staraya Artel May 7.

Two bachelors, the first of the season, hauled on East rookery May 14.

The rookery population June 3 was as follows:

	Bulls.	Quitters.	Bachelors.		Bulls.	Quitters.	Bachelors.
North	73	6	20	Little East	14	.....	.....
East	35	3	30	Staraya Artel	29	4	10
East Reef	12	1	.....	Zapadni	33	4	.....

At the corresponding date of 1904 North rookery had 100 bulls and East Reef 20. The diminution on the other rookeries is less marked.

FOXES.

The regular feeding of foxes began September 15, the food consisting of 1 dozen salmon which had been soaking several days and carried considerable water. Two days later a large tubful of salmon was fed, such tubs being afterwards found to hold about 80 pounds. Later in September this amount was doubled, so that the total for the month was 15 tubs.

October 1 the remains of a right whale came ashore, which furnished the foxes with such a supply of food as to render feeding unnecessary during that month. The offal of seals killed during this interval was also eaten by the foxes. November 2 the feeding of soaked salmon was renewed, the amount fed being gradually increased until 4 tubs were fed daily. Beginning with November 20 seal meat was also fed, the total for the

month comprising 48 tubs of salmon and 57 seal carcasses. During December 366 seal carcasses and 21 tubs of salmon were thrown out for and eaten by the foxes, the carcasses varying in number between 10 and 25 daily. In January the weather became milder, so that 41 tubs of salmon and 115 carcasses were sufficient for that month, while during February 57 tubs and 53 carcasses were fed. The feeding in March consisted of 114 tubs, that of April 82 tubs, that of May 26 tubs and 1 barrel salt beef. May 15, the last day on which the feeding was contemplated, 7 tubs of salmon, all that was in soak, were thrown out. This was eaten within the next five days. Beginning with February 4 a supply of whale blubber was continually at the feeding place as an auxiliary to the salmon. Altogether 7,216 pounds of whale blubber were set out for and eaten by the foxes before the middle of May, excepting, perhaps, 200 pounds of tough, fibrous matter which carried little or no oil, and was finally burned. The seal meat preserved at Zapadni last summer, amounting to about 50 carcasses, was thrown out March 16. This was also eaten. As will be seen from the foregoing the foxes have been bountifully fed during the entire winter, the feeding being so arranged that with rare exceptions a surplus of food was left over every morning.

The total amount which we know to have been eaten by the foxes may be stated as follows:

	Pounds.
404 tubs of salmon (approximating 80 pounds each)	32,320
486 seal carcasses	12,797
155 seal carcasses (approximating 26 pounds each)	4,030
Offal of 235 seals (approximating 11 pounds each)	2,585
Whale blubber, 74 pieces	7,013
Salt beef, 1 barrel	194
One-half barrel codfish and one-half barrel beef tongues.	
Total	58,939

TRAPPING.

Trapping was begun by the company agent November 20 and continued vigorously until February 3, two large traps being constantly in use. During this interval foxes were trapped 31 times at fox house and 25 times at stable. In addition to this there were 9 failures at stable and 7 at fox house. Three men were sent to Zapadni, who remained there four days, trapping every night. The trappings and attempts thereat were therefore as follows: At fox house, 38 times; at stable, 34 times; at Zapadni, 3 times.

This was not only the most extensive trapping ever carried on here, but the number of hours actually spent in the work greatly exceeded all previous records. On two occasions we remained up all night and on several others until after midnight.

Doors that worked from below the surface of the ground were arranged and found to work satisfactorily. They are a decided improvement upon drop doors. Catching sticks were finally abandoned and thrown away. Instead of using the scissors to open the foxes' mouths for dental examination, a soft gag was made upon which it was impossible for the animals to injure their teeth. Masks were made for the use of the man in the trapping room to prevent their being bitten in the face as has occasionally occurred.

Despite all efforts a few foxes were at large at the close of the season that had escaped the traps. This, however, always occurs. The total catch was 766, that of last year 1,061, showing a diminution, during the interval, of 29 per cent.

Of the catch, 244 males and 250 females were branded and 272, including 10 white, killed, 87 of which were females. (For the catch in detail, see Exhibit B.)

The males branded and dismissed for the purpose of propagation were prime in every respect. This is also true of about 80 per cent of the females left as breeders. I regretted leaving any animals not strictly first class as breeders, but there was no alternative without reducing the breeding quota, which was already low enough.

The females left as breeders which are not considered first-class, i. e., about 20 per cent, are only slightly inferior and by no means poor animals.

Since the close of the fox season only four deaths were noted. One of these was due to uremic poisoning, another to a hemorrhage of the kidney, another to tuberculosis. In the fourth case the cause of death could not be determined, as the body, when found, was too badly decomposed. To my knowledge the only death among foxes known to have occurred from tuberculosis is that found by Dr. Mills and myself May 28, above noted.

The animal was a female, 3 years old, carrying one brand. She was void of fat and weighed not more than 4 pounds. The loss in flesh occurred since the time of trapping. Tubercular nodules were found in both lungs, so that the case was well defined.

Remaining organs apparently healthy. This disease may, of course, cause many deaths among the foxes.

On the whole I feel optimistic, and believe that the fox catch next season will show a decided increase over that of last winter. The animals have, as shown, been abundantly fed. There has been no drift ice during the winter, while the weather has been exceptionally mild, so that the most delicate animal should live until next season, unless attacked by disease.

In the exercise of the discretion vested in him, the company's agent rejected 4 blue skins as defective and undesirable. The division, as shown in Exhibit C, was therefore based on 258 blue and 10 white fox skins, which, at current prices, aggregated $1,300. Last year's division amounted to $2,370, being based on a catch of 471 blue and 15 white.

The difference in earnings will be felt by the natives. The company's agent says the skins secured are a poor lot.

This is true enough, and under the circumstances could not be otherwise. The large shrinkage in the herd made it incumbent on me to examine every fox caught, and as the welafre of the herd demands that only the best be left for breeding purposes the company of course got only the residue. With the exception of 16 males and 9 females killed early in the season through a misapprehension on my part and few other medium-size males later on, the skins taken were those of either small or inferior beasts slaughtered because they were so.

While foxes were scarcer in the vicinity of the village last fall than ever before in my experience, I had no idea there would be a diminution, and therefore when trapping began I determined to brand no male that in my judgment weighed less than 11 pounds, or any female weighing less than 10 pounds.

As time wore on, however, it became evident that the standard set would have to be lowered or the breeding quota, while superior beasts, would not be sufficiently numerous.

The weights then determined on were 10 pounds for males and 8 pounds for females, and later on some females weighing as little as 7½ pounds were branded.

In the early part of the season the matter of weights was wholly conjectural, but December 17, I tried an experiment of taking the live weights of the foxes caught, and found that it could be done in a comparatively easy manner.

The fox while in the hand of the native was subjected to the usual dental examination. A piece of soft leather, 2 inches wide, was then looped around the tail, one end of the leather being hooked to a scale suspended from the ceiling, when the weight was quickly ascertained and entered.

If it was determined to leave the animal as a breeder, it was branded and liberated; otherwise it was dispatched in the usual manner. When a branded animal was caught more than once it received an additional brand each time, but was not reweighed. While the trapping was more extensive than that of two years ago, there was less rebranding. (Compare Exhibit B with exhibit of my report July 10, 1903.)

This was due to the fact that separate rooms were provided at the barn and fox house in which the foxes, as caught, were confined until my arrival in order that all foxes caught should pass under my inspection. There being no such rooms two years ago, I was obliged to confine my attention to the fox house, trusting to the natives the work at the village; while the foxes caught at both places were branded and dismissed at once, many of them evidently to return forthwith and be immediately recaptured. My plan was to visit both places every two hours while foxing was on, so that the confinement should in no case exceed that length of time. It was generally shorter.

There is nothing cruel in the weighing nor did the full two-hour confinement seem to distress them. The presence of a lantern in the room with the foxes caused them, with very few exceptions, to lie perfectly quiet until the time for handling arrived, when they showed plenty of spirit.

Both the age and live weight of every animal caught on and after December 16 were noted in the manner indicated and recorded in a book which I opened.

The system of feeding and trapping foxes now in vogue has been in operation continuously since 1897. All data concerning the number of foxes that have been killed or dismissed for breeding purposes since that time is scattered through the different official journals kept in this office, which makes the looking up of those matters a cumbrous and difficult proceeding. The aforesaid book is designed to remedy that defect by providing a permanent and concise record of the essential points in the fox business, and it should, in my judgment, be continued by succeeding agents in this office. It comprises a full statement of foxes caught and killed or dismissed as breeders, together with a record of the approximate ages and weights in each class, the respective data being carefully segregated.

The actual live weights of all males branded and dismissed as breeders since December 14 were as follows:

Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.
13	10	11	11¾	12	13½	2	16
5	10½	21	12	1	13¾	1	17½
9	10½	3	12½	7	14	1	18½
13	10¾	15	12½	3	14½	1	20
28	11	13	12¾	1	14¾		
6	11¼	14	13	1	15	198	
11	11½	5	13¼	1	15½		

Live weights of females branded and dismissed as breeders subsequent to December 14 were as follows:

Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.
9	7½	6	10¾	18	9	1	14½
9	7¾	13	11	6	9½	1	14½
16	8	3	11¾	22	9½	2	15
14	8½	8	12	11	9¾	1	15½
24	8½	1	12½	19	10	3	11½
15	8¾	1	12¾	13	10½	4	11½
2	10½	2	13	1	13½	225	

Autopsies were held on all foxes killed either at the stable or fox house during the entire season at which the weights of the dead animals were taken. From the data thus obtained compared with the live weights of particular animals I was able to estimate with considerable accuracy the weights of the animals killed prior to December 14. Such estimate, together with the actual weights obtained of the males that were killed after that date, will be found in the following table:

Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.
2	6	5	9¼	1	11½	4	16
5	7	20	9½	3	11¾	1	16½
2	7¼	3	9¾	1	11½	1	18
5	7½	19	10	3	12	1	18½
2	7¾	8	10¼	2	12½	2	19½
6	8	8	10½	1	13		
4	8¼	25	9	1	13½	180	
16	8½	5	10¾	4	14		
12	8¾	6	11	2	14¾		

The actual weights of females killed after December 14, with the estimated weights of those killed prior to that date, were as follows:

Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.	Foxes.	Weight in pounds.
1	5¾	3	7¼	6	9½	1	12½
9	6	6	7½	1	10	1	13½
4	6¼	6	8	1	10½	86	
9	6½	2	8¼	3	11		
3	6¾	8	8½	2	11½		
14	7	4	9	2	12		

Prior to turning the skins over to the company all were measured, with the following results in inches:

	Average length.	Average breadth.	Average length of tail.
180 blue males	$30\frac{105}{180}$	$11\frac{1}{180}$	$15\frac{54}{180}$
5 white males	$32\frac{1}{5}$	$11\frac{4}{5}$	$16\frac{2}{5}$
80 blue females	$29\frac{80}{80}$	$10\frac{23}{80}$	$15\frac{17}{80}$
5 white females	29	$10\frac{2}{5}$	$14\frac{1}{5}$

Two years ago I measured the skins of 33 males and 54 females, the average of same being somewhat larger than those herewith presented. (See my report for 1903.)

Along toward the end of the season the skins of 11 foxes, of which the age and live weights were known, were marked so that they could be identified when dried. The following table gives the age and weight of those 11, with corresponding measurement:

Males.						Females.					
1 year old.			2 years old.			Over 3 years old.			1 year old.		
Weight.	Length.	Breadth.	Weight.	Length.	Breadth.	Weight.	Length.	Breadth.	Weight.	Length.	Breadth.
$8\frac{1}{4}$	28	11	8	31	12	12	31	13	$6\frac{1}{2}$	28	10
$8\frac{1}{2}$	29	12	$9\frac{1}{4}$	31	12	.....	.....	.....	$8\frac{1}{4}$	30	11
9	30	10	$9\frac{1}{2}$	29	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
$7\frac{3}{4}$	26	11	11	30	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

None of these animals was very old. The largest skin was taken from the heaviest animal. Among the yearlings and 2-year-olds the latter generally produced the larger pelt. An 8-pound 2-year-old had a larger skin than one of equal age weighing 11 pounds. The data are, of course, insufficient in quantity for the basing of any general conclusions as to the relations existing between the live weight of the beast and the size of its skin. Apparently the one is not dependent upon the other. Nor does the largest animal produce the best fur. The company agent assured me that the two skins taken at Zapadni were the best of the catch. Those skins weighed, according to the natives that killed them, 9 and $9\frac{1}{4}$ pounds, and measured when dried 30 by 12 and 29 by 11 inches, respectively.

On the other hand, there can be little doubt that the larger and heavier animals, being well protected with blubber, are better fitted to survive in severe weather than those found to be poor and thin. The latter therefore should be killed off and nothing but the choice animals left as breeders.

FOX CENSUS.

The ages of the different foxes handled were determined by an examination of their teeth. No claim of absolute accuracy is made, but the ages given approximate, in my opinion, as near the animals' true ages as it is possible to give.

They were as follows:

	Young or approximately 1 year.		Middle aged or approximately—				Old, over 3 years.		Not examined.	
			2 years.		3 years.					
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Killed	89	68	68	15	19	1	9	3	.....	.....
Branded	80	101	112	110	49	32	.....	5	3	2
Total	169	169	180	125	68	33	9	8	3	2

From this census it appears that of the yearlings 169 of each sex, or 338 altogether, went through the traps. The mothers of these 338, which comprise all females above the age of 1 year, numbered 166. This would make an average per litter of 2 plus. The season's trapping indicates that the sexes are about equally divided at birth.

In my fox census, taken two years ago in the same manner that this has been taken, 322 were found that were more than 1 year old. (See my report, July 10, 1903.)

The yearlings caught during that season numbered 318, 133 males and 185 females, plus a number of runts estimated at 65 (ibid., p. 9), which were dismissed without branding. To these must be added a great number known to have died of starvation and eating of salt meat (ibid., pp. 1 to 6), so that neither the proportion of sexes or yield per mother for that year can be determined with any degree of accuracy.

So far as I am aware no census was made last year, but as 250 pairs of foxes were turned off in 1903 and the catch in 1904 was 1,061, the yield was 561 or, approximately, 2¼ per female. Divided as to sex, the catch for 1904 was 517 males and 544 females. In these calculations I assume that foxes escaping the traps offset the natural mortality among those branded.

As will be observed in looking over the above census only 9 males and 8 females were caught that would be considered old. In the census taken two years ago this class numbered 16 males and 92 females. The presence of such a large proportion of old females in the catch of two years ago is due to the fact that during the preceding six years females were immune from slaughter while the scarcity of such animals last season indicates that the old have been effectively killed off.

STOMACHS AND INTESTINES.

The contents of stomachs and intestines as developed on post-mortem examination revealed nothing of especial interest beyond that discovered two years ago and reported at that time. Fox fur was found in the intestines of three early in the season, but at no other time, which is very good evidence that the foxes were furnished sufficient food, or at least that the living were not devouring the dead, if there were any dead. Evidence of the animals living on the beach was found in 22 instances, the amount being small in every case.

There was, owing to the mildness of the winter, but little heavy surf, and in consequence, perhaps, less marine food was thrown on the beach than usual. Whale blubber was found in 18 stomachs, but whether it was picked up on the beach or around the natives' houses it is impossible to say.

Intestinal worms were quite numerous, being found in 76 cases. They were similar to those found two years ago and delivered to you at that time, with the exception that one of the tapeworms was much larger than any heretofore discovered, measuring 12 inches in length. This worm was preserved, and is at your disposal.

DECREASE IN FOX LIFE.

As already indicated, the total catch was 766; that of the preceding season, 1,061, which shows a diminution of 29 per cent during the interval. This decrease is a serious blow to the fox business. It affects both the number and quality of the skins secured by the company, while the loss to the natives in earnings compared with the preceding year is over $1,000.

During the season 1903–4, 285 males and 287 females were dismissed as breeders, together with 18 which were considered too small for branding. According to the present census, 257 of those males and 166 females were caught which, being more than 1 year old, are presumed to represent the breeding quota dismissed the prior year. The loss among the breeders during the interval, according to the trapping, which is the only safe guide, is 28 males and 121 females. That it was a real loss, and that the animals in question are no longer on the island, no one disputes. Neither dying nor dead foxes were observed by anyone on the island, native or white. It follows, of course, that unlike the season of 1902–3, an epidemic among the beasts is neither charged nor suspected. What, then, became of them? There was some ice in the sea which may have caused loss, but whatever such loss was must have been equally divided between the sexes, or nearly so.

My opinion is that, in addition to the loss caused by the ice, whatever that amounted to, the foxes disappearing have perished through the inclemency of the weather or lack of sufficient food, and that the dead were soon after devoured by their surviving brethren. That the females should succumb under adverse conditions in greater numbers than the males seems consonant with fox life if we are to believe that the sexes are equal at birth. During the season of 1895–96, when the steel traps only were used, the

catch was 151 males and 120 females, and the succeeding season the catch was 193 males and 133 females. (See office journal, pp. 50 and 144.)

Under the present system of trapping, which began in 1897, the females did not equal in number the males caught until the third season, regardless of the fact that during the interval the females were immune from slaughter while two-thirds of the males caught were dispatched. These facts may not prove the proposition that the females are less robust or less fit to survive than the males, but it is certainly evidence in that direction. Just what class of females are the first to perish is difficult to say, but my firm opinion is that it comprises the small, poorly nourished ones.

FUTURE PRECAUTION.

The innovation adopted in 1902, of pairing animals—i. e., of branding and setting at liberty for breeding purposes an equal number of males and females—has not resulted satisfactorily. It was, I presume, thought that such pairing would put the business upon a more substantial footing, and at the same time permit the slaughter of the females that had accumulated while they were immune from killing during the preceding six years, when males only were killed. The trapping of 1903–4 (1,061 as compared with 1,011 the preceding year) tended to confirm the wisdom of the experiment; but last season's experience shows conclusively, to my mind at least, that the slaughter of any healthy female, except for cause, is neither wise nor economic. Unquestionably, fox life on this island was at a lower ebb last autumn than at any other corresponding time during the past eight years. The abstract question as to whether or not the animals are polygamous remains undecided.

Evidence as to the sexual habits of the foxes is scanty, but what there is tends toward polygamy. (See my reports for 1900 and 1903.)

I have, therefore, the honor to recommend that in future the proportion of males to females to be left for breeding purposes shall be either one to two or one to three, as shall be thought best, and no male weighing less than 10 pounds or female weighing less than 7½ pounds shall be left as breeders.

When one thinks what has been effected in recent times by careful and methodical selection, as shown by the different exhibitions of improved quadrupeds and fancy birds, there is every reason to expect an improvement in the size and fur of the blue fox by working along parallel lines. Domestic animals, almost without exception, have undergone improvement in recent years. "By the supply of abundant and nutritious food * * * and by the continuous selection of the heaviest individuals the weight of the larger breeds (rabbits) has been more than doubled." (Animals and Plants under Domestication, Darwin, vol. 1, p. 161.)

While the blue fox of St. George Island is not a fully domesticated animal, there can be little doubt that as time goes on the race may be improved and its chance of surviving adverse climatic or other conditions augmented by raising the standard weights of those left as breeders. The trapping is now so arranged that the department's agent can with little effort inspect every animal coming into the trap. I would therefore suggest that it be made the specific duty of said agent to personally select the breeding animals. This work, second only to the steady, continuous, and abundant feeding of nutritious food, is of great importance, and for obvious reasons should under no circumstances be intrusted to the company agents or employees.

SEA LIONS.

Two sea lions were killed during the winter by the natives and 3 more in May.

The animals killed were mature males, the skins of which were saved for bidarras, while the meat formed a welcome addition to the natives' larders. On May 28 I counted 17 bulls, 30 cows, and 4 pups on Sea Lion rookery.

SCHOOLS.

School for the native children was in session under a very competent instructor from September 1 to April 28 with the exception of the Christmas, national, and church holidays. The total of such holidays was 18, or nearly the equivalent of one school month. I have no objection to the holidays, but see no reason that the time lost should not be made good. The school year, eight months—in reality only seven—is, in my opinion, too short. While attending school the children receive more care and attention from their parents than they ever do during vacation. I would therefore request that a definite rule be adopted requiring that all time lost on account of holidays of whatever class be made up, either in advance or at the close of the regular school term, whichever may be most convenient for those concerned. Exhibit D is the report of the teacher, Mr. Edson.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Since my arrival the natives have built a nice picket fence around the Government house, besides constructing a large clubroom for themselves, and a house at East Landing for the Government boat. They also built a boat to be used by the community for hunting and fishing at Garden Cove.

Both the boat and club houses are called "barabarras," being built the former entirely and the latter partially of driftwood, surrounded and covered with turf. Still they are very comfortable buildings, being well drained, light, and airy. Much of the driftwood used involved considerable labor in hewing and whipsawing, but the results more than justified it. The homemade billiard table, brought from St. Paul, was in constant use at the clubhouse and afforded the natives an unusual amount of amusement. The general conduct and behavior of the natives were extraordinarily good the entire winter.

WHALES.

As noted on page 8, the remains of a right whale came ashore October 1. It carried no baleen, the latter having probably been taken out by the whalers who killed the beast. The blubber of this animal is considered very palatable by the natives, who took advantage of its arrival to salt from two to four barrels per family, enough for three years, they said, besides great quantities which were hung up outside of their houses. They had no use for the meat, of which there was an enormous amount. After the people were supplied I had the men save 15 barrels of the blubber, which was tried out later, but yielded only 80 gallons of oil. The latter is very nice, and I trust can be disposed of to advantage for the benefit of the native library about to be started.

In my mail of October 17 I received a draft for $120 for the skeletons of two whales found by me near East rookery in June, 1904, and forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute. This money was divided among the natives, as was also $22 received by me in Seattle for 10 fox skins rejected by the company as worthless two years ago.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

EXHIBITS.

Exhibit A. Weights of sealskins, autumn 1904.
Exhibit B. Foxes caught, season 1904-5.
Exhibit C. Fox division, 1905.
Exhibit D. Report of school-teacher, 1905.

EXHIBIT A.—*Weights of sealskins taken during autumn of 1904.*

Date.	Rookeries.	Weight (pounds).								
		4¾	5	5¼	5½	5¾	6	6¼	6½	6¾
Oct. 19	North and South Ardiguen				2	1	2	4	3	7
22	Zapadni				2	1	1		2	1
24	East					1	3	3	6	6
Nov. 3	North and South Ardiguen	1	3	1	10	5	11	7	7	2
4	East			2		6	6		2	4
5	Zapadni					3				2
9	North and South Ardiguen						1	3	1	
14	East				1					
15	North and South Ardiguen						2	3	3	
18	Zapadni		1		1					
22	North		3	2		6	1	1	2	2
23	Staraya Artel		2		5	1	1			1
	Total	1	9	5	21	24	28	21	26	25

EXHIBIT A.—*Weights of sealskins taken during autumn of 1904*—Continued.

Date.	Rookeries.	Weight (pounds).								
		7	7¼	7½	7¾	8	8¼	8½	8¾	9
Oct. 19	North and South Ardiguen	9	9	6	4	7	1	2	1	1
22	Zapadni		1	1		2				
24	East	5	2	1	1	2				
Nov. 3	North and South Ardiguen	2	2	1	1					
4	East	1	1	3						
5	Zapadni	1	1							
9	North and South Ardiguen									
14	East	2	1	1	2					
15	North and South Ardiguen									
18	Zapadni	1								
22	North									
23	Staraya Artel									
	Total	21	17	13	8	11	1	2	1	1

EXHIBIT B.—*Annual statement of foxes caught on St. George Island, and either killed or dismissed as breeders during season of 1904–5.*

Date.	Location of traps.	Killed.				Branded.		Rebranded.			
		Blue.		White.		Blue.		2 brands.		3 brands.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1904.											
Oct. —	Native's well [1]	5									
Nov. 9	Killed by chief [2]		1								
21	Fox house	5	4			3	2				
21	Village	21	12		1						
22	Fox house	6	3			2	1				
27	do		2								
Dec. 8	do	1	1								
11	do	5	7		2	5	5				
11	Village		1			2		1			
12	Fox house	7	9			25	6	3	2		
12	Village	1	4			2	1				
13	Fox house	2	3			4	5	3	1		1
13	Village		1			2	2	1			
14	Fox house	2	2			1	3		1	1	
14	Village			1							
16	Fox house	1				1	1			1	1
16	Village	3				3	3				
18	Fox house	3				2		1			
18	Village						2				
26	Fox house	34	10	2		33	38	5	6	1	1
26	Village	6	2	1		8	10	7	2	2	
28	Fox house	1					2				
28	do	4	3		1	8	6	9	8		1
28	Village	1				3	4	3	4	1	1
29	Fox house	2					1		1		
29	Village	4	3			5	11	5	8	2	2
1905.											
Jan. 2	Fox house	20	3		1	20	20	14	11	6	1
2	Village	8	2			14	10	8	7	8	2
3	Fox house	6	2			26	17	10	10	6	6
3	Village	1				3	6	2	3		2
4	Fox house and village						2		3		2
5	Fox house					1					
15	do	2					2	1			
16	do	10	3			6	10	5	5	1	2
17	do	3	2			1	7	2	4	1	
17	Village	1					1	1		1	
19	do	1					1		1		
20	do	1				7	8		3	2	3
20	Fox house					3	4	2	2	3	
22	do	2	1			5	5	4	3	2	5
22	Village					3	6		2		
23	do	1				3	3	4	2		1
23	Fox house					8	8	9	8	3	1
24	Zapadni	2				3	3	1	2		1

[1] Drowned.

[2] Injured.

EXHIBIT B.—*Annual statement of foxes caught on St. George Island, and either killed or dismissed as breeders during season of 1904–5*—Continued.

Date.	Location of traps.	Killed.				Branded.		Rebranded.			
		Blue.		White.		Blue.		2 brands.		3 brands.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1905.											
Jan. 24	Fox house	1				4	3	3	3	1	3
24	Village	2				1	2		2	1	
25	do	1				5		3	1	1	1
25	Fox house	2				3	1	2	3	2	1
29	do					1				1	
29	Village						1				
30	East landing [1]		1								
30	Fox house			1		7	5	4	6	6	6
30	Village	1				4	6	4	5	3	4
31	do					1	1	2			1
31	Fox house	1				2	1	1			2
Feb. 2	Fox house and village						1	1			
3	Fox house					1	8	9	15	8	3
3	Village					3	5	5	5	4	4
	Total	180	82	5	5	244	250	135	139	68	58

Date.	Location of traps.	Rebranded.							
		4 brands.		5 brands.		6 brands.		7 brands.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1904.									
Dec. 14	Fox house		1						
16	do				1				
28	do	1							
28	Village	1							
29	do		1	1					
1905.									
Jan. 2	Fox house	3	2						
2	Village	1	2						
3	Fox house		3	1	1				
3	Village	1		1					
4	Fox house and village	1							
16	Fox house				1		1		
17	Village	1							
20	do		1						
22	Fox house	2	1						
22	Village		1						
23	Fox house	2	2						
24	do	1							
25	Village	1							
25	Fox house	3	1		1				
30	do		2	1	1				1
30	Village	3	2						
31	do	1							
31	Fox house						1		
Feb. 3	do	1	1	3					
3	Village	1	2			1			
	Total	24	22	7	5	1	2		1

[1] Found in spasms.

EXHIBIT C.—*Fox division, season 1904–5.*

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, *June 1, 1905.*

By 258 blue-fox skins, at $5	$1,290.00
By 10 white-fox skins, at $1	10.00
Total	1,300.00

To 13 first-class men, at $59.10	$768.30
To 6 second-class men, at $47.20	283.20
To 4 third-class men, at $35.40	141.60
To 2 special class	60.11
Material Garden Cove boat	46.79
Total	1,300.00

First-class shares.—Twenty-one men, at $59.10 each, as follows: Corniel Gorokof, Stephan Lekanof, Demetri Lestenkof, Michael Lestenkof, Nicoli Malavansky, George Merculif, Joseph Merculif, Nicoli Merculif, Andronic Philimonof, Gregory Philimonof, Simeon Philimonof, Peter Prokopief, Rev. Peter Kashevarof.

Second-class shares.—Six men, at $47.20 each, as follows: John Galanin, Nicoli Nederazof, Manuel Zaharof, Gregory Swetzof, Michael Shane, Walter Kashevarof.

Third-class shares.—Four men, at $35.40 each, as follows: Marka Merculif, Demetri Philimonof, Alexander Galanin, Peter Malavansky.

Special class.—Two men, as follows: Stephan Lekanof, chief, $30.11; Joseph Merculif, second chief, $25; Joseph Merculif, hydrant keeper, $5.

The division as above made is hereby approved on behalf of the natives of this island.

STEPHAN LEKANOF, *First Chief.*
JOSEPH MERCULIEF, *Second Chief.*

I certify that the amounts indicated herein have been placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By J. A. LAKE, *Agent.*

I certify that the above division was made by me after conference with the native chiefs.

JAMES JUDGE,
Agent, United States Department of Commerce and Labor.

EXHIBIT D.—*Report of school-teacher.*

NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
St. George Island, Alaska, April 28, 1905.

SIR: Please accept the following as school report for the year ending this day:

School has been in session as usual for the eight months between Thursday, September 1, 1904, and Friday, April 28, 1905, all children of the required age being in attendance.

There has been very little absence during the year, save the six weeks of one pupil caused by a broken bone.

Three new pupils began the year, and there were none of age to leave school at the end.

The progress of the school during the year just ended has been a satisfactory improvement upon the two previous years, and in several cases remarkable interest has been taken in the work.

Holidays have been observed as usual.

I wish to express my thanks for the assistance kindly rendered by Mrs. Judge as musical instructor.

Boys attending school	12
Girls attending school	14
Total	26
Weeks in school year	35
School days	172
Holidays	3
Holidays, Christmas recess	10
Holidays, Russian church	5
Total	18
Number days school in session	154

Absences excused by doctor	days..	41½
Absences excused by Government agent	do...	8½
Absences unexcused	do...	½
Total		50½
Attendance for year, 26 times 154, minus 50½		3,953½
Attendance, average daily		25

Respectfully submitted.

C. R. EDSON,
School-Teacher, St. George Island.

JAMES JUDGE,
Agent, Department Commerce and Labor,
in Charge of St. George Island.

APPENDIX No. 2.

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ended August, 1905.

Date.	Rookeries.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.			Number of seals killed by lessees for skins.				Aggregates.		
		Large young seals.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Cut skins rejected.	Accepted (prime).	Rejected. Cut.	Rejected. For other reasons.	Rejected. Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
1904.											
Oct. 13	On hand in salt house				143			143	143		143
20	Reef and Zoltoi	169	165	4					165	4	169
26	Reef	159	153	6					153	6	159
Nov. 6	Northeast Point	42	42						42		42
7	Reef	56	55	1					55	1	56
16	Northeast Point	98	98						98		98
27	Reef and Tolstoi	283	277	6					277	6	283
Dec. 9	Southwest Bay	69	69						69		69
1905.											
May 13	Sea Lion Rock	88	88						88		88
June 3	do	204	203	1					203	1	204
19	Tolstoi				30			30	30		30
21	Zapadni (branding drive)				364	3		367	364	3	367
23	Northeast Point (branding drive)				531	6		537	531	6	537
	Winter food skins, Northeast Point	14	14						14		14
26	Reef				420	2		422	420	2	422
30	Northeast Point				488	1		489	488	1	489
July 1	Zapadni and Tolstoi				534			534	534		534
3	Reef				603	8		611	603	8	611
6	Northeast Point				972	3		975	972	3	975
7	Zapadni				485	5		490	485	5	490
8	Reef				559	5		564	559	5	564
11	Northeast Point				551	2		553	551	2	553
13	Reef				504	[1] 4	[1] 3	511	504	7	511
14	Zapadni				475	2		477	475	2	477
16	Northeast Point				755	5		760	755	5	760
17	Reef and Gorbatch				333	4		337	333	4	337
19	Zapadni				475	2		477	475	2	477
21	Northeast Point				109			109	109		109
22	Reef and Gorbatch				514	9		523	514	9	523
24	Zapadni				490	2	[1] 3	495	490	5	495
26	Northeast Point				547	5	[1] 1	553	547	6	553
27	Tolstoi				142			142	142		142
27	Reef				549	5	[1] 1	555	549	6	555
28	Zapadni and Little Zapadni				461	4		465	461	4	465
31	Reef				220	1		221	220	1	221
31	Northeast Point				478			478	478		478
Aug. 8	Northeast Point, watch food skins	76	76						76		76
10	Reef (food)	192	192						192		192
	Total	1,450	1,432	18	11,732	78	8	11,818	13,164	104	13,268

[1] Bitten.

EXHIBIT No. 3.

Certificate of sealskins shipped, St. Paul, 1905.

Div. Special Agents.
Form 17.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 13, 1905.

This is to certify that 13,000 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *W. H. Kruger*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent.

M. MARTIN,
Master, Steamer "W. H. Kruger."

EXHIBIT No. 4.

Weights of sealskins taken during the sealing season ended August 10, 1905, on St. Paul Island.

Date.	Rookeries.	4	4¼	4½	4¾	5	5¼	5½	5¾	6	6¼
1904.											
Aug. 9	Reef and Gorbatch					3	1	13	10	12	13
Oct. 20	Reef and Zoltoi			1		1		6	2	15	16
27	Reef	1				1	2	8	10	11	10
Nov. 6	Northeast Point							3	4	4	3
7	Reef					1		2	3	8	3
16	Northeast Point	1		3	4	3	2	17	13	13	10
27	Reef and Tolstoi			1	1	4	7	11	19	26	25
Dec. 9	Southwest Bay		1	3	6	2	4	15	9	8	3
1905.											
May 13	Sea Lion Rock						1	2	2	7	3
June 3	....do	1				3	3	5	9	18	11
19	Tolstoi									1	1
21	Zapadni		1	4	7	8	10	45	46	49	30
23	Northeast Point		1	2	5	7	8	55	61	81	41
26	Reef	2	3	6	7	6	9	53	42	54	31
30	Northeast Point			4	3	7	6	41	49	54	45
July 1	Zapadni and Tolstoi		1	6	5	7	11	86	61	84	40
3	Reef	3	4	4	5	7	12	61	82	95	56
6	Northeast Point		2	12	16	20	15	140	134	130	105
7	Zapadni			3	8	10	18	61	57	62	60
8	Reef	1	3	6	7	10	14	58	75	84	61
11	Northeast Point	1	1	6	5	9	8	75	77	76	48
13	Reef	1	1	3	3	4	5	55	36	67	42
14	Zapadni			6	5	7	8	85	86	48	39
16	Northeast Point			4	4	8	14	117	130	93	70
17	Reef and Gorbatch	1	1	9	9	8	11	77	55	29	17
19	Zapadni	2	1	3	4	6	13	83	65	73	66
21	Northeast Point					1	3	12	12	11	17
22	Reef and Gorbatch	1	1	6	5	8	9	63	81	70	79
24	Zapadni		6	8	3	2	14	66	63	67	38
26	Northeast Point	2	4	2	4	6	16	88	87	78	69
27	Reef		1	2	9	9	21	113	112	90	50
27	Tolstoi				3	6	10	9	13	12	22
28	Zapadni and Little Zapadni			1	4	4	10	48	45	37	40
31	Reef			1		6	12	27	29	33	30
31	Northeast Point				4	10	14	57	88	74	43
Aug. 8	Watch Northeast Point				1	4	6	7	8	11	4
10	Reef (food)		1		2	5	14	14	36	27	30
	Total	17	33	106	139	203	311	1,678	1,711	1,712	1,271

Weights of sealskins taken during the sealing season ended August 10, 1905, on St. Paul Island—Continued.

Date.	Rookeries.	6½	6¾	7	7¼	7½	7¾	8	8¼	8½	8¾
1904.											
Aug. 9	Reef and Gorbatch	16	16	17	10	10	3	4	4	5	1
Oct. 20	Reef and Zoltoi	13	18	13	15	18	8	10	10	3	6
27	Reef	19	21	14	22	13	9	6	1	3	1
Nov. 6	Northeast Point	3	4	3	4	3	1	3	2	.....	.....
7	Reef	8	4	7	6	6	2	1	2	.....	.....
16	Northeast Point	8	10	2	2	4	2	1	1	.....	2
27	Reef and Tolstoi	33	35	28	29	11	19	11	6	4	3
Dec. 9	Southwest Bay	1	5	6	3	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
1905.											
May 13	Sea Lion Rock	10	10	9	5	6	3	5	4	8	1
June 3	....do	15	11	23	10	16	9	15	12	8	6
19	Tolstoi	3	1	5	1	1	.....	2	.....	2	.....
21	Zapadni	29	23	23	19	20	14	10	9	3	2
23	Northeast Point	44	38	54	19	21	18	15	18	11	8
26	Reef	38	27	39	11	34	11	13	7	5	5
30	Northeast Point	50	41	45	33	30	18	16	9	7	4
July 1	Zapadni and Tolstoi	51	44	33	18	23	15	13	8	8	7
3	Reef	79	45	45	25	19	23	12	5	9	4
6	Northeast Point	109	79	69	45	41	20	16	5	5	4
7	Zapadni	58	45	29	25	13	10	12	5	5	2
8	Reef	59	49	45	26	14	15	10	4	8	1
11	Northeast Point	85	47	34	13	31	12	3	7	9	4
13	Reef	93	38	65	33	41	12	12	6	4	2
14	Zapadni	56	44	24	14	13	7	6	4	4	.....
16	Northeast Point	99	84	40	25	39	20	10	4	4	.....
17	Reef and Gorbatch	39	25	20	7	12	5	3	2	6	.....
19	Zapadni	48	34	24	13	24	4	9	2	.....	.....
21	Northeast Point	15	4	2	11	9	4	3	1	2	2
22	Reef and Gorbatch	62	34	40	11	17	9	6	4	8	5
24	Zapadni	47	43	51	26	19	11	5	7	3	5
26	Northeast Point	80	27	25	16	22	13	3	3	3	1
27	Reef	32	43	20	20	14	8	6	1	2	.....
27	Tolstoi	9	20	12	7	1	5	2	6	2	2
28	Zapadni and Little Zapadni	78	49	37	24	33	16	17	5	8	.....
31	Reef	15	26	14	8	8	4	7	1	.....	.....
31	Northeast Point	42	44	37	16	12	22	7	2	2	4
Aug. 8	Watch Northeast Point	4	1	3	4	1	2	1	1	1	1
10	Reef (food)	14	14	11	7	8	6	1	.....	1	.....
	Total	1,465	1,103	968	583	609	361	270	173	152	85

Date.	Rookeries.	9	9¼	9½	9¾	10	10¼	10½	10¾	11	11¼	11½
1904.												
Aug. 9	Reef and Gorbatch	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oct. 20	Reef and Zoltoi	3	2	.....	1	.....	1	2	3	1	.....	.....
27	Reef	2	1	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 6	Northeast Point	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7	Reef	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
27	Reef and Tolstoi	4	1	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1905.												
May 13	Sea Lion Rock	.....	1	.....	1	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
June 3	....do	6	3	6	3	4	1	2	2	2	.....	.....
19	Tolstoi	1	2	3	.....	3	.....	1	1	.....	1	.....
21	Zapadni	4	5	3	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
23	Northeast Point	7	5	7	3	3	2	.....	2	.....	1	.....
26	Reef	8	3	4	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
30	Northeast Point	7	3	1	2	3	3	.....	2	3	.....	1
July 1	Zapadni and Tolstoi	4	1	1	2	1	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....
3	Reef	5	2	1	4	2	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
6	Northeast Point	4	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7	Zapadni	2	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
8	Reef	3	.....	2	1	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
11	Northeast Point	.....	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
13	Reef	7	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
14	Zapadni	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16	Northeast Point	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17	Reef and Gorbatch	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
19	Zapadni	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
22	Reef and Gorbatch	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
24	Zapadni	4	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
26	Northeast Point	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
27	Reef	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
27	Tolstoi	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
28	Zapadni and Little Zapadni	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total	91	40	41	22	27	8	13	13	8	2	1

EXHIBIT No. 5.

Counts of rookeries, St. Paul Island, season of 1905.

ARDIGUEN.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.
1905.					1905.				
May 11	1				June 25	10		7	26
May 16	2				June 26	10	1	7	34
May 25	5				June 28	10		8	65
June 2	6				July 1	9		9	165
June 7	7				July 8	9	4	9	283
June 10	8				July 11	9	1	9	261
June 12	8				July 13	9	1	9	
June 15	8		1	1	July 23	12		11	206
June 19	8		4	7					

AMPHITHEATER.

1905.					1905.				
May 16	1				June 24	8	1	4	7
May 19	2				June 26	7		5	10
May 23	3				June 28	9		7	30
May 27	3	1			July 1	9		7	67
May 29	5	2			July 3	9		8	100
June 1	6				July 5	9		9	138
June 4	5				July 6	9	3	9	156
June 5	7				July 8	9	3	8	138
June 7	7				July 11	10	3	10	215
June 9	7				July 13	12		12	198
June 11	6				July 17	12		12	218
June 14	8				July 19	12		12	175
June 16	7	1	1	1	July 21	12		12	149
June 22	9		2	3	July 23	10		10	105

KETOVI.

1905.					1905.				
May 5	2				June 22	47	2	13	15
May 6	2				June 24	46	7	24	31
May 10	4				June 28	56	2	31	137
May 16	12				July 1	53	3	38	265
May 23	25				July 3	52	3	46	442
May 27	24	5			July 8	57		51	870
June 5	38	3			July 11	57	2	55	922
June 7	40	7			July 13	57	2	54	1,070
June 9	42	4			July 17	60	1	58	1,064
June 11	44	2			July 19	60		58	920
June 14	38	10			July 21	57		57	821
June 16	42	7	1	1	July 23	57	3	56	596
June 19	46	4	3	3					

LAGOON.

1905.					1905.				
May 18	3				June 28	24	2	16	71
June 2	18				July 9	26	1	23	401
June 9	21	1			July 13	25		23	545

LUKANIN.

1905.					1905.				
May 10	1				June 19	44	3	5	5
May 16	5				June 22	45	2	11	18
May 17	5				June 24	44	2	21	62
May 19	9				June 26	46		19	92
May 22	18				June 28	45	2	20	155
May 23	18				July 1	46	4	26	312
May 27	21	4			July 3	47	2	37	495
May 29	26	2			July 5	47	3	39	665
June 1	27	4			July 6	50	4	39	725
June 4	38				July 8	47	3	40	976
June 5	36	1			July 11	46	1	43	1,024
June 7	33	4			July 13	45	2	43	1,038
June 9	38	2			July 17	48	4	48	957
June 11	38	2			July 19	50	1	49	849
June 14	38	4			July 21	45	1	44	748
June 16	40	3			July 23	47	4	45	551

Counts of rookeries, St. Paul Island, season of 1905—Continued.

VOSTOSHNI (WEST SIDE NORTHEAST POINT).

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.
1905.					1905.				
June 12	21	5			July 10	32	2	31	859
June 29	28	2	18	126	July 16	32		32	
July 5	31	3	28	480					

NORTHEAST POINT.

1905.					1905.				
May 8	1				June 12	272	55		
May 9	2				July 16	378	11	362	

POLAVINA.

1905.					1905.				
June 13	44	5	1	1	July 16	56	3	53	

POLAVINA CLIFF.

1905.					1905.				
June 13	24	8			July 16	36	1	36	
July 6	34	2	30	338					

LITTLE POLAVINA.

1905.					1905.				
June 13	11				July 16	12		12	
July 6	13	1	13	330					

REEF.

1905.					1905.				
May 1	2				May 25	109	19		
May 2	2				June 2	173	13		
May 6	2				June 26	220	6	126	
May 11	19				July 13	275	5	261	
May 16	43								

SEA LION ROCK.

1905.					1905.				
June 3	32				June 19	45		3	3

TOLSTOI.

1905.					1905.				
May 2	1				June 9	102	2		
May 18	42				July 14	143		136	
June 2	76								

TOLSTOI CLIFF.

1905.					1905.				
May 18	11				July 9	34	1	34	744
June 2	35				July 14	35	3	35	
June 9	23	4			July 24	33	3	33	427
June 28	32	1	21	149					

Counts of rookeries, St. Paul Island, season of 1905—Continued.

MORJOVI (EAST SIDE NORTHEAST POINT).

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.
1905.					1905.				
June 12	12	6			July 10	21		19	326
June 29	18		8	32	July 16	20	1	20	
July 5	21	3	14	151					

ZAPADNI.

1905.					1905.				
June 9	147	11			July 14	200	7	179	

LITTLE ZAPADNI.

1905.					1905.				
June 9	61	2			July 14	81	3	78	

ZAPADNI REEF.

1905.					1905.				
June 9	22	6			July 14	32		30	
July 7	30	2	23	325					

GORBATCH.

1905.					1905.				
Apr 27	[1] 1				June 2	96	1		
April 29	1				June 7	95	4		
May 1	1				June 10	103	8		
May 2	1				June 12	104	4		
May 6	3				June 15	114	2	3	6
May 11	10				June 19	119	2	17	23
May 16	25				June 25	121	4	58	239
May 25	52	7			July 13	124	6	122	

GORBATCH CLIFF.

1905.					1901.				
May 16	3				June 25	9		2	2
May 25	6				June 28	10		5	13
June 2	8				July 2	10	1	8	71
June 7	7	1			July 8	9	2	9	180
June 10	7	2			July 11	10		10	196
June 12	13	1			July 13	10		10	
June 15	12				July 23	9		8	126
June 19	9								

[1] First bull seen on island

EXHIBIT No. 6.

Statistics of killings, St. Paul Island, 1905.

Date.	Rookeries.	Animals killed.	Dismissed.		New brands.		1904 brands.		Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Large.	Small.	Two years.	Three years.	Three years.	Four years.		
1905.										
June 19	Tolstoi	30	18	1	.....	.....	.....	3	52	57
21	Zapadni	367	69	24	.....	.....	26	15	501	73
23	Northeast Point	537	70	39	.....	.....	.....	.....	646	83
26	Reef	422	80	71	148	78	10	14	823	51
30	Northeast Point	489	14	92	71	36	6	10	718	68
July 1	Zapadni and Tolstoi	534	48	61	20	12	3	13	691	77
3	Reef	611	50	86	46	34	7	8	842	72
6	Northeast Point	975	25	313	45	21	7	6	1,392	70
7	Zapadni	490	23	109	32	17	8	.....	679	72
8	Reef	564	29	122	35	25	4	6	785	71
11	Northeast Point	553	3	309	33	7	3	1	909	60
13	Reef	511	7	318	44	18	4	1	903	56
14	Zapadni	477	4	234	29	10	2	3	759	62
16	Northeast Point	760	5	427	48	28	2	2	1,272	59
17	Reef and Gorbatch	337	26	187	37	35	7	6	635	53
19	Zapadni	477	19	243	38	29	6	8	820	58
21	Northeast Point	109	2	232	8	.....	.....	.....	351	31
22	Reef and Gorbatch	523	17	417	53	28	5	3	1,046	50
24	Zapadni	495	31	349	54	22	4	4	959	51
26	Northeast Point	553	19	324	59	26	6	2	989	55
27	Tolstoi	142	25	35	15	5	5	1	228	62
27	Reef	555	26	406	53	16	6	2	1,064	52
28	Zapadni and Little Zapadni	465	69	434	71	19	5	6	1,069	43
31	Reef	221	3	185	21	9	.....	1	440	50
31	Northeast Point	478	37	297	32	26	8	4	882	54
Aug. 10	Reef (food)	192	16	233	13	10	3	1	468	41
	Total	11,867	735	5,548	1,005	511	137	120	19,923	59

EXHIBIT No. 7.

Census of St. Paul Island, June 30, 1905.

Names.	Relation.	Age, years.		Names.	Relation.	Age, years.	
		Male.	Female.			Male.	Female.
Bogadanoff, Nicoli	Husband	33	.....	Stepetin, Elary, jr.	Adopted son	4	.....
Bogadanoff, Uleta	Wife	.....	38	Kochutin, Jacob	Husband	53	.....
Bogadanoff, Agrafina	Niece	.....	8	Kochutin, Alexandra	Wife	.....	43
Bourdukofsky, Apollon	Father	51	.....	Kochutin, Theodore	Son	17	.....
Bourdukofsky, Peter	Son	26	.....	Kochutin, Larion	do	12	.....
Buterin, Karp	Husband	51	.....	Mandregan, Innokenty	Orphan	13	.....
Buterin, Parascovia	Wife	.....	49	Mandregan, Nekeefer	do	9	.....
Buterin, Constantine	Son	19	.....	Koshevnikoff, Paul	Husband	21	.....
Mazeekin, Wassilisa	Adopted	.....	10	Koshevnikoff, Mary	Wife	.....	31
Fratis, John, jr.	Husband	19	.....	Kochutin, John	Husband	34	.....
Fratis, Sandulia	Wife	.....	15	Kochutin, Claudia	Wife	.....	25
Fratis, John, sr.	Husband	60	.....	Kochutin, Nikanor	Son	4	.....
Fratis, Akalina	Wife	.....	31	Kochutin, Erena	Daughter	.....	2
Fratis, Agrafina	Daughter	.....	14	Vickiloff, Alexander	Stepson	7	.....
Fratis, Simeon	Son	11	.....	Kochutin, Trefan	Widower	19	.....
Fratis, Ouliana	Daughter	.....	9	Kotchergin, George	Husband	27	.....
Fratis, Martha	do	.....	6	Kotchergin, Agafia	Wife	.....	25
Galaktioneff, Alexander	Husband	33	.....	Emanoff, Mary	Cousin	.....	13
Galaktioneff, Lukeria	Wife	.....	28	Tetoff, Peter	Godchild	3	.....
Hanson, Anna	Stepdaughter	.....	5	Koxloff, Michael	Son	19	.....
Galaktioneff, Mary	Daughter	.....	3	Koxloff, Parascovia	Mother	.....	46
Galaktioneff, Matrona	do	.....	2	Koxloff, Nicoli	Brother	17	.....
Gromoff, Nicoli	Husband	37	.....	Serebrinikoff, Ripsemia	Cousin	.....	12
Gromoff, Ouliana	Wife	.....	35	Krukoff, John	Husband	25	.....
Stepetin, Pavla	Adopted daughter.	.....	13	Krukoff, Uleta	Wife	.....	21
				Diakanoff, Andrew	Stepson	11	.....
Volkoff, Tecan	Orphan	12	.....	Krukoff, Nicoli	Husband	54	.....

Census of St. Paul Island, June 30, 1905—Continued.

Names.	Relation.	Age, years. Male.	Female.	Names.	Relation.	Age years. Male.	Female.
Krukoff, Catherine	Wife		44	Shabolin, Varvara	Daughter		7
Krukoff, Eustenia	Daughter		15	Shabolin, Matrona	do		5
Emanoff, Alexai	Nephew	7		Shabolin, Daniel	Son	2	
Krukoff, Metrofan	Husband	22		Shabolin, Marfa	Daughter		1/12
Krukoff, Pelagia	Wife		10	Stepetin, Dorofay	Husband	34	
Philamonoff, Foecla	Orphan		17	Stepetin, Luboff	Wife		29
Kushin, Michael	Husband	20		Stepetin, Chionia	Daughter		10
Kushin, Matrona	Wife		14	Stepetin, Auxenia	do		6
Kushin, Nestor	Nephew	12		Stepetin, Helena	do		1/12
Hanson, John	do	9		Stepetin, Elary	Husband	41	
Hopoff, Nekiter	Bachelor	17		Stepetin, Anna	Wife		34
Kushin, Mary	Widow		50	Stepetin, Agnes	Daughter		9
Melovidoff, Alexander	Husband	30		Stepetin, Nicoli	Son	2	
Melovidoff, Salome	Wife		29	Stepetin, John	Husband	25	
Melovidoff, Antone	Son	11		Stepetin, Vera	Wife		25
Melovidoff, Alexandra	Daughter		3	Stepetin, Vassali	Son	4	
Melovidoff, Alfai	Son	2		Stepetin, Larion	do	8/12	
Melovidoff, Alexander, jr	do	6/12		Stepetin, Vassali	Nephew	12	
				Shisenikoff, George	Husband	23	
Nozekoff, Simeon	Husband	28		Shisenikoff, Ouliana	Wife		17
Nozekoff, Avdotia	Wife		30	Tetoff, Neon	Husband	35	
Nozekoff, Mary	Daughter		7	Tetoff, Agrafina	Wife		30
Kozeroff, Ivanally	Half-brother	17		Tetoff, Simeon	Son	13	
Kozeroff, Alexandra	Half-sister		12	Tetoff, Mary	Daughter		9
Melovidoff, Simeon	Husband	37		Tetoff, Dimitri	Son	7	
Melovidoff, Alexandra	Wife		37	Tetoff, Erena	Daughter		5
Melovidoff, Margaret	Daughter		13	Tetoff, Agrafina	do		3
Melovidoff, Christopher	Son	11		Tetoff, John	Son	1	
Melovidoff, Alexander	do	9		Tetoff, Peter	Husband	40	
Melovidoff, Simeon, jr	do	6		Tetoff, Mary	Wife		44
Melovidoff, Alexandra	Niece		24	Kochutin, Varvara	Adopted daughter.		8
Merculieff, Alexander	Husband	29					
Merculieff, Agafia	Wife		27	Tetoff, Zahar	Husband	26	
Merculieff, Paul	Son	10		Tetoff, Daria	Wife		25
Merculieff, Auxenia	Daughter		9	Tetoff, Paul	Son	1/12	
Merculieff, Terrenty	Son	2		Orloff, Rev. J. E	Father	47	
Merculieff, Paul	Brother	15		Orloff, Olga	Daughter		15
Merculieff, Dosefai	Son of Alex	4/12		Orloff, Nadia	do		13
Pankoff, Parfiri	Father	42		Orloff, Nicoli	Son	11	
Pankoff, Vlass	Son	17		Orloff, Alexandra	Daughter		8
Pankoff, Martha	Daughter		7	Nedarazoff, Catherine	Widow		47
Rookavishnikoff, Stepan	Husband	24		Merculieff, John	Husband	19	
Rookavishnikoff, Elizabeth.	Wife		18	Merculieff, Avdotia	Wife		32
				Merculieff, Serefima	Daughter		1
Sedick, Theodore	Father	57		Krukoff, Condrat	Son	15	
Sedick, Innokenty	Son	20		Krukoff, Feotesta	Mother		39
Sedick, Mary	Daughter		18	Mazeekin, John	Bachelor	16	
Sedick, John	Son	8		Seduli, Elizabeth	Widow		64
Shabolin, Nekon	Husband	38		Stepetin, Marena	Daughter of John Step.		7
Shabolin, Foecla	Wife		31				
Shabolin, Agrafina	Daughter		75				

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

Kochutin, Zenobia	Mother		37	Peeshnikoff, Wassalisa	Widow		4
Kochutin, Innokenty	Son	2		Artomonoff, Alexandra	do		51
Kochutin, Mark	Nephew (son of John).	10		Vickiloff, Alexandra	Adopted daughter.		10
Krukoff, Anna	Widow		39	Balakshin, Matrona	Widow		55
Krukoff, Mary	Daughter		8	Rookavishnikoff, Parascovia.	Niece		16
Emanoff, Mary	Widow		27				
Emanoff, Eneka	Son	4		Shopishnikoff, Parascovia.	Spinster		38
Emanoff, Peter	do	2					

RESIDING ELSEWHERE.

Krukoff, Lukeria			28	Zaharoff, Fedosia			28
Mandregan, Mary			21	Popoff, Alexandria			10
Melovidoff, Marcia			17	Tetoff, Sophia			17
Sedick, Avdotia			24				

RECAPITULATION.

Number of males	82
Number of females	82
Total number of residents	164
Deaths during year	7
Departures	2
Births during year	8
Arrivals	4

EXHIBIT No. 8.

Division of natives' earnings, St. Paul Island, Alaska, season of 1905.

By 13,000 fur-seal skins, at 50 cents	$6,500.00
By 8 sea-lion skins, at $2	16.00
Total	6,516.00
To 21 first-class shares, at $197.95	4,156.95
To 6 second-class shares, at $158.40	950.40
To 5 third-class shares, at $118.80	594.00
To 5 fourth-class shares, at $79.20	396.00
To 4 fifth-class shares, at $49.50	198.00
To 6 special-class shares	220.65
Total	6,516.00

First-class shares.—Twenty-one men, at $197.95, as follows: N. Bogadanoff, Karp Buterin, Jacob Kochutin, Nicoli Krukoff, S. Melovidoff, S. Nozekoff, Theo. Sedick, D. Stepetin, John Stepetin, Peter Tetoff, A. Bourdukofsky, George Kotchergin, John Kochutin, Alex. Mercullieff, P. Pankoff, N. Shabolin, E. Stepetin, Neon Tetoff, J. E. Orloff, John Krukoff, George Shisenikoff.

Second-class shares.—Six men, at $158.40, as follows: P. Bourdukofsky, Alex. Melovidoff, Zahar Tetoff, John Fratis, jr., Innokenty Sedick, Metrofan Krukoff.

Third-class shares.—Five men, at $118.80, as follows: Nicoli Gromoff, Michael Kushin, Trefan Kochutin, S. Rookavishnikoff, John Mercullieff.

Fourth-class shares.—Five men, at $79.20, as follows: John Fratis, sr., Michael Kozloff, P. Koshevnikoff, Alex. Galationeff, Constantine Buterin.

Fifth-class shares.—Four men, at $49.50, as follows: Nicoli Kozloff, Ivanally Kozeroff, Vlass Pankoff, Fedor Kochutin.

Special-class shares.—Condrat Krukoff, $30.15; Paul Mercullieff, $30.15; Nicoli Krukoff (first chief), $50; Nekiter Hopoff, $30.15; John Mazeekin, $30.20; Jacob Kochutin (second chief), $50.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 10, 1905.*

I hereby certify that the above division was made by me, in the manner detailed above, after conference with the representative of the North American Commercial Co. and the native chiefs on this island.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 10, 1905.*

I hereby certify that the amounts as above stated representing the division on St. Paul Island, for the season of 1905, will be placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

J. C. REDPATH,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 10, 1905.*

We hereby approve the division for St. Paul Island, for the season of 1905, as detailed above, for and on behalf of the natives of this island.

NICOLI KRUKOFF,
First Chief.
JACOB KOCHUTIN,
Second Chief.

EXHIBIT No. 9.

Letter requesting statistics.

1764 WILLARD STREET,
Washington, D. C., October 13, 1905.

SIR: In compliance with instructions to me dated May 1 last from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, I have to request that I be furnished with information showing the cost to your company of complying with the provisions of its contract in connection with the following items: Maintenance of dwellings for natives on seal island; maintenance of schools for natives on seal island; maintenance of house of worship on seal island; medical attendance for natives on Seal Island; support of widows, orphans, aged, and infirm on Seal Island.

This information is desired for use in my annual report, which I hope to submit in the near future.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Island.

Mr. H. H. TAYLOR,
President North American Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.

EXHIBIT No. 10.

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. George Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1905.

Date.	Rookeries.	Large young seals killed for natives' food (skins accepted by lessees).	Prime seals killed by lessees for skins.	Total number of seals killed and skins accepted.
1904.				
Aug. 3	Found dead near East Landing	1	.....	1
Oct. 19	North and Staraya Artel	59	.....	59
22	Zapadni	11	.....	11
24	East	30	.....	30
Nov. 3	North and Staraya Artel	53	.....	53
4	East	25	.....	25
5	Zapadni	6	.....	6
9	North and Staraya Artel	6	.....	6
14	East	1	.....	1
15	North and Staraya Artel	14	.....	14
18	Zapadni	2	.....	2
22	North	18	.....	18
23	Staraya Artel	10	.....	10
1905.				
June 3	Zapadni	.....	2	2
10	East and Staraya Artel	.....	63	63
20	East and North	.....	64	64
23	East, North, and Staraya Artel	.....	3	3
26	Zapadni	.....	27	27
28	Staraya Artel and North	.....	28	28
July 1	do	.....	57	57
5	Staraya Artel, North, and East	.....	211	211
6	Zapadni	.....	56	56
8	Staraya Artel, North, and East	.....	60	60
11	do	.....	37	37
15	Staraya Artel and East	.....	180	180
17	Zapadni	.....	45	45
19	East and Staraya Artel	.....	73	73
22	do	.....	80	80
24	Zapadni	.....	20	20
26	Staraya Artel and East	.....	60	60
28	Zapadni	.....	14	14
29	Staraya Artel and East	.....	22	22
31	do	.....	30	30
	Total	236	1,132	1,368

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent in Charge of St. George Island.

EXHIBIT No. 11.

Weights of sealskins taken on St. George Island during season ended July 31, 1905.

Weight.	Skins.	Weight.	Skins.	Weight.	Skins.	Weight.	Skins.
Pounds.		*Pounds.*		*Pounds.*		*Pounds.*	
4¾	2	6¼	105	7¾	32	9¼	3
5	31	6½	151	8	30	9½	3
5¼	30	6¾	108	8¼	14	9¾	0
5½	200	7	129	8½	8	10	1
5¾	160	7¼	61	8¾	9		
6	225	7½	62	9	3	Total..	1,367

The skin found near East Landing last August was not weighed.

EXHIBIT No. 12.

Counts of rookeries, St. George Island, season of 1905.

EAST REEF ROOKERY.

Date.	Harems.	Cows.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Bulls with bachelors or beyond rookery.	Date.	Harems.	Cows.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Bulls with bachelors or beyond rookery.
1905.						1905.					
May 20	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	June 21	5	8	10	1	.....
May 26	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	June 23	5	9	9	2	.....
June 1	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	June 26	13	47	2	2	.....
June 3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	June 28	12	55	3	1	.....
June 6	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	July 4	15	244	1	1	.....
June 10	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	July 8	16	344	1	.....	.....
June 13	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	July 13	16	396	.....	.....	.....
June 16	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	July 14	17	453	.....	.....	.....
June 19	2	2	12	1	.....						

Maximum.—Harems, 17; cows, 453; idle bulls, 0; bulls on rookery, 17.

STARAYA ARTEL ROOKERY.

1905.						1905.					
May 7	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	June 1	.....	.....	28	.....	.....
May 9	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	June 2	.....	.....	29	.....	4
May 12	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	June 10	.....	.....	24	.....	1
May 14	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	June 14	2	2	28	3	5
May 16	.....	.....	4	1	.....	June 21	6	6	23	6	.....
May 20	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	July 14	29	1,305	4	.....	.....
May 26	.....	.....	14	.....	.....						

Maximum.—Harems, 29; cows, 1,305 (estimated); idle bulls, 4; bulls on rookery, 33.

NOTE.—For the same reasons that exist at Zapadni this rookery can not be counted. The estimate here given is based on the count of a number of harems, giving an average of 45 cows per harem.

Counts of rookeries, St. George Island, season of 1905—Continued.

EAST ROOKERY.

Date.	Harems.	Cows.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Bulls with bachelors or beyond rookery.	Date.	Harems.	Cows.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Bulls with bachelors or beyond rookery.
1905.						1905.					
May 2			1			June 9	1	1	38	3	7
May 3			2			June 10	1	1	39		7
May 4			3			June 13	2	2	42		7
May 5			3			June 16	6	8	37		8
May 7			4	1		June 19	13	30	31	1	5
May 9			5			June 21	19	78	27		
May 12			5			June 23	20	148	26	2	8
May 14			7	1		June 28	36	615	14		8
May 16			7			July 4	47	1,048	3		
May 20			11			July 8	47	1,502	5		
May 26			25			July 13	47	1,345	4		
June 1			39			July 14	47	1,743	7		
June 3			35	3							

Maximum.—Harems, 47; cows, 1,743; idle bulls, 7; bulls on rookery, 54.

ZAPADNI ROOKERY.

1905.						1905.					
May 2			1			June 21	7	37	38		2
May 14			6			June 26	19	206	28		
June 1			30			July 17	45	1,845	3		
June 11			35								

Maximum.—Harems, 45; cows, 1,845 (estimated); idle bulls, 3; bulls on rookery, 48.

NOTE.—By reason of the massing of the seals and the impossibility of obtaining a view of the entire rookery for any length of time, only the number of harems and idle bulls could be counted. An estimate was therefore made of the number of cows. The estimate is based on the count of a number of harems, giving an average of 41 cows per harem.

LITTLE EAST ROOKERY.

1905.						1905.					
May 7			1			June 13			15		
May 9			1			June 16			16		
May 11			3			June 19			16		
May 12			3			June 21	2	2	14		
May 14			3			June 23	3	6	13		
May 16			5			June 26	11	33	5		
May 20			7			June 28	12	39	4		
May 26			14			July 4	16	152			
June 1			14			July 8	14	202	2		
June 3			14			July 13	16	182			
June 6			14			July 14	16	298			
June 10			15								

Maximum.—Harems, 16; cows, 298; idle bulls, 0; bulls on rookery, 16.

NORTH ROOKERY.

1905.						1905					
May 2			1			June 10	1	1	88	3	2
May 3			1			June 12	1	1	101	2	2
May 4			1			June 14	5	5	89	3	4
May 5			2			June 17	9	10	89		4
May 7			5			June 21	22	40	76		9
May 9			7			June 22	32	85	65		
May 12			14			June 24	43	169	59	3	3
May 14			19			June 28	66	531	36	3	
May 16			18	2		June 29	71	718	37		
May 20			36	1		July 2	86	1,422	18	3	
May 26			57	2		July 6	98	2,121	12	2	
June 1			60			July 9	103	2,710	8	2	
June 2			73	6		July 12	104	2,961	8	2	
June 5	1	1	79	3		July 14	104	2,687	8		
June 7	1	1	90	3	1						

Maximum.—Harems, 104; cows, 2,961; idle bulls, 8; quitters, 2; bulls on rookery, 112.

Exhibit No. 13.

Seals released from drives, St. George Island, season of 1905.

Date.	Rookeries.	St. George brand.	St. Paul brand.	Permanent brand.	Small.	4-year-olds.	5-year-olds.	6-year-olds.	Bulls.
1904.									
Oct. 19	North and Staraya Artel	6	.....	.....	197	[1] 6	.....	.....	.....
24	East	6	3	.....	1	[1] 19	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 3	North and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	.....	10	[1] 13	.....	.....	.....
4	East	.....	.....	.....	.....	[1] 5	.....	.....	.....
1905.									
June 10	East and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	1	20	9	1	.....	.....
20	East and North	.....	9	1	.....	12	.....	3	6
23	East, North, and Staraya Artel	66	1	.....	.....	20	6	5	2
26	Zapadnie	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	4	6	.....
28	East, North, and Staraya Artel	92	2	1	.....	5	4	7	1
July 1	North and Staraya Artel	50	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....
5	East, North, and Staraya Artel	125	7	2	155	1	1	1	1
6	Zapadnie	14	1	.....	40	7	.....	.....	.....
8	North and Staraya Artel	35	.....	2	99	3	.....	.....	.....
11	.....do	20	1	.....	117	.....	1	.....	.....
15	East and Staraya Artel	68	7	.....	325	5	.....	5	.....
17	Zapadnie	33	3	3	71	3	.....	.....	1
19	East and Staraya Artel	88	6	1	218	5	1	.....	.....
22	.....do	75	6	3	314	4	.....	.....	3
24	Zapadnie	26	1	1	92	3	2	.....	.....
26	East and Staraya Artel	57	6	1	181	4	.....	.....	.....
28	Zapadnie	11	4	.....	25	1	.....	.....	.....
29	East and Staraya Artel	13	.....	.....	100	4	.....	.....	.....
31	.....do	25	1	.....	85	.....	1	.....	.....
	Total	810	64	16	2,077	129	21	27	14

[1] Large.

Exhibit No. 14.

Young male seals marked and released on St. George Island, season of 1905.

Date.	Rookeries.	2-year-olds.	3-year-olds.	4-year-olds.
1905.				
June 20	East and North	57	59	8
23	East, North, and Staraya Artel	44	72	30
26	Zapadni	21	10	7
28	East, North, and Staraya Artel	71	52	8
July 1	North and Staraya Artel	7	7	5
5	East, North, and Staraya Artel	.....	.....	10
11	.....do	.....	.....	1
	Total	200	200	69

These seals were all marked by clipping off the fur on the top of their heads with a pair of sheep shears. In addition to this a half-round button was punched out of the outside finger of the left hind flipper, marking them permanently.

EXHIBIT No. 15.

Count of live pups, St. George Island, season of 1905.

Date.	Rookeries.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Dead cows.
July 29	Zapadni	2,742	45	3
31	North	4,047	142	2
31	Staraya Artel	2,148	14	1
31	East	2,700	46	.....
31	East Reef	650	3	.....
31	Little East	412	3	.....
	Total	12,699	253	6

EXHIBIT No. 16.

Seal division, St. George Island, season of 1905.

By 1,368 sealskins, at 50 cents	$684.00
To 14 first-class men, at $27.15	380.10
To 4 second-class men, at $21.80	87.40
To 5 third-class men, at $16.30	81.50
To 2 special-class men (first chief, $40; second chief, $35)	75.00
To material for native club	60.00
	684.00

First class.—Fourteen men at $27.15 each, as follows: Corneil Gorokof, Stephan Lekanof, Demetri Lestenkof, Michael Lestenkof, Nicolai Malavansky, George Merculif, Joseph Merculif, Nicolai Merculif, Andronic Philamonof, Gregory Philamonof, Simeon Philamonof, Peter Prokopief, Manuel Zaharof, Rev. Peter Kashevarof.

Second class.—Four men at $21.80 each, as follows: John Galanin, Nicolai Nedarazof, Michael Shane, Gregory Swetzof.

Third class.—Five men at $16.30 each, as follows: Alexander Galanin, Walter Kashavarof, Peter Malavansky, Marka Merculif, Demetri Philamonof.

Special class.—Stephan Lekanof, chief, $40; Joseph Merculif, second chief, $35.

The division as made above is hereby approved on behalf of the natives of this island.

STEPHAN LEKANOF,
First Chief.
JOSEPH MERCULIF,
Second Chief.

I certify that the amounts indicated herein have been placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By Dr. L. A. NOYES, *Agent.*

I certify that the above division was made by me after conference with the native chiefs.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Agent, U. S. Department of Commerce and Labor.

Exhibit No. 17.

Census of St. George Island, June 30, 1905.

No. of family.	No. of person.	Names of individuals.	Family relation.	Age.	Date of birth.
1	1	Galanin, Alexander	Bachelor	19	Sept. 11, 1885
	2	Galanin, Akalina	Mother	43	1862.
2	3	Galanin, John	Husband	23	Sept. 30, 1881
	4	Gallain, Anna	Wife	23	1881.
3	5	Galanin, Fevronia [1]	Widow	28	June 25, 1877
	6	Swetzof, Paul [1]	Brother	12	July 8, 1892
	7	Gorokof, Corneil	Widower	49	May 31, 1856
4	8	Oustegof, Alexandra [2]	Stepdaughter	12	May 2, 1893
	9	Oustegof, Stepanida [2]	do	10	Nov. 23, 1894
	10	Lekanof, Stepan	Husband	35	Nov. 9, 1869
	11	Lekanof, Pelagia	Wife	35	Oct. 20, 1869
	12	Lekanof, Anatoli	Son	15	Apr. 13, 1890
5	13	Lekanof, Sergius	do	13	Oct. 6, 1891
	14	Lekanof, Sara	Daughter	11	Aug. 30, 1893
	15	Lekanof, Marina	do	10	Mar. 7, 1895
	16	Lekanof, George	Son	8	Apr. 7, 1897
	17	Lestenkof, Demetri	Husband	43	May 27, 1862
	18	Lestenkof, Alexandra	Wife	26	May 5, 1879
6	19	Lestenkof, Elizabeth	Mother	70	Sept. 16, 1834
	20	Lestenkof, Constantine	Son	6	Sept. 29, 1898
	21	Merculif, Marka	Foster son	20	Apr. 10, 1885
	22	Diakanof, Katie	Niece	16	Nov. 26, 1888
	23	Lestenkof, Michael	Husband	32	Oct. 12, 1872
7	24	Lestenkof, Oulita	Wife	35	Oct. 20, 1869
	25	Lestenkof, Innokenty	Son	8	Sept. 25, 1896
	26	Lestenkof, Anna	Daughter	6	Sept. 30, 1898
8	27	Malavansky, Nicolai	Husband	40	Dec. 18, 1864
	28	Malavansky, Fedosia	Wife	24	Apr. 15, 1881
	29	Malavansky, Peter	Son	17	Jan. 22, 1888
9	30	Malavansky, Ripsemia	Mother	47	1858.
	31	Malavansky, Wassi [1]	Aunt	30	Aug. 22, 1888
	32	Malavansky, Christopher	Son	1	
	33	Merculif, George	Husband	31	Nov. 15, 1873
	34	Merculif, Stepanida	Wife	26	Dec. 21, 1878
10	35	Merculif, Peter	Son	6	July 10, 1899
	36	Merculif, Sophia	Daughter	3	Sept. 29, 1901
	37	Merculif, George, jr	Son	2	Apr. 29, 1903
	38	Merculif, Martha [2]	Sister	12	July 8, 1893
	39	Merculif, Joseph	Husband	33	Mar. 17, 1872
11	40	Merculif, Marvara	Wife	26	May 14, 1879
	41	Merculif, John [1]	Brother	15	Jan. 18, 1890
	42	Merculif, Helena	Sister	21	May 27, 1884
12	43	Merculif, Natalia [1]	Widow	24	Sept. 9, 1880
	44	Merculif, Nicolai	Husband	25	May 19, 1880
13	45	Merculif, Matrona	Wife	22	Jan. 2, 1883
	46	Merculif, Lavrenty	Son	2	Sept. 8, 1902
14	47	Merculif, Wassalis [1]	Widow	54	Jan. 20, 1851
	48	Merculif, Alexandra	Daughter	27	Apr. 22, 1878
	49	Niderezof, Nicolai	Bachelor	27	Dec. 18, 1877
15	50	Niderezof, Efghenia	Mother	51	Jan. 5, 1854
	51	Niderezof, Isidor	Brother	14	Feb. 15, 1891
	52	Philimonof, Andronic	Husband	38	Oct. 24, 1867
	53	Philimonof, Zenobia	Wife	38	Nov. 12, 1866
	54	Philimonof, Marina	Daughter	15	May 12, 1890
16	55	Philimonof, Leonti	Son	11	May 6, 1894
	56	Philimonof, Alexandra	Daughter	9	Apr. 25, 1896
	57	Philimonof, Andronic, jr	Son	6	Oct. 18, 1898
	58	Philimonof, Eoff	do	3	June 8, 1902
	59	Philamonof, Gregory	Husband	32	Oct. 12, 1872
17	60	Philamonof, Malania	Wife	31	Jan. 12, 1874
	61	Philamonof, Demetri	Brother	19	May 25, 1886
	62	Philamonof, Paul	Nephew	9	July 11, 1896
	63	Philamonof, Simeon	Husband	54	Aug. 3, 1850
	64	Philamonof, Evadotia	Wife	34	Feb. 28, 1871
	65	Philamonof, Zoya	Daughter	12	Nov. 12, 1892
18	66	Philamonof, Joseph	Son	11	Feb. 4, 1894
	67	Philamonof, Ignati	do	5	Dec. 29, 1899
	68	Philamonof, Julia	Daughter	3	Mar. 12, 1902
	69	Philamonof, Helena	do	1	Apr. 10, 1904
	70	Prokopief, Peter	Husband	41	May 29, 1864
	71	Prokopief, Stepanida	Wife	28	Nov. 18, 1876
19	72	Prokopief, Martha	Daughter	9	Mar. 8, 1896
	73	Prokopief, Marina	do	7	Mar. 5, 1898
	74	Prokopief, Alexander	Son	3	May 1, 1902
	75	Prokopief, Laurenty	do	1	Aug. 20, 1903

[1] Supported by North American Commercial Co.
[2] Clothing supplied by North American Commercial Co.

Census of St. George Island, June 30, 1905—Continued.

No. of family.	No. of person.	Names of individuals.	Family relation.	Age.	Date of birth.
20	76	Shane, Michael	Bachelor	17	Oct. 13, 1887
	77	Shane, Raiesse	Mother	53	1852.
	78	Merculif, Stepan	Cousin	14	Sept. 27, 1890
	79	Oustegof, Anfessia [1]	Foster daughter	10	Apr. 21, 1895
21	80	Swetzof, Gregory	Husband	19	Nov. 29, 1885
	81	Swetzof, Zoe	Wife		
22	82	Zacharof, Emanuel	Husband	25	July 1, 1880
	83	Zacharof, Mary	Wife	31	Apr. 1, 1874
	84	Zacharof, Daria	Daughter	3	Apr. 2, 1902
		PRIEST'S FAMILY.			
23	85	Kashavarof, Rev. Peter	Husband	48	Mar. 3, 1857
	86	Kashavarof, Anna	Wife	40	Jan. 17, 1865
	87	Kashavarof, Walter	Son	17	July 2, 1887
	88	Pavlof, Katrina	Niece	11	Dec. 2, 1893
	89	Riazanzof, Serefina [1]	Orphan	18	July 1, 1887
		Malavansky, Cleopatra [2]	Daughter of Ripsimia	22	Oct. 31, 1882

[1] Clothing supplied by North American Commercial Co.
[2] Residing in San Francisco in family of Mrs. Cox.

RECAPITULATION.

Number of native inhabitants last census	95
Increase by arrival from St. Paul	1
Decrease by death	5
Decrease by removal to St. Paul	2
Actual number of resident natives	89

SUMMARY.

Number of native families	23
Number of native individuals	89
Number of native males	44
Number of native females	45
Number of native males of 16 years old or over	23
Number of native males between 6 and 16 years	14
Number of native males under 6 years	7
Number of native females 16 years old or over	28
Number of native females between 6 and 16 years	13
Number of native females under 6 years	4
Number of native males of school age	14
Number of native females of school age	13
Number of families wholly supported by North American Commercial Co	3
Number of individuals wholly supported by North American Commercial Co	9
Number of individuals clothed by North American Commercial Co	5

Government agents and company employees.—H. D. Chichester, assistant agent in charge; Ezra W. Clark, assistant agent; Mrs. Ezra W. Clark; Dr. L. A. Noyes, physician and company agent; J. A. Lake, clerk; Gee Ho, Chinese cook.

Exhibit No. 18.

North American Commercial Co.,
St. George Island, Alaska, August 2, 1905.

Sir: In reply to your letter of August 1 requesting a statement of the amount expended by the North American Commercial Co. on this island during the year ending June 30, 1905, for the maintenance of native dwellings, school for natives, house of worship, support of widows and orphans, aged and infirm, and medical attendance, I would respectfully submit the following, which is approximately correct:

For maintenance of native dwellings	$36.63
School for natives	1,708.51
House of worship	No expense.
Medical attendance	2,038.68
Support of widows and orphans, aged and infirm	1,624.47

Respectfully,

Dr. L. A. Noyes,
Agent, North American Commercial Co.,
St. George Island, Alaska.

H. D. Chichester,
Assistant Agent, Seal Fisheries in Alaska.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
WASHINGTON.

Memorandum: In the matter of the increase of prices of commodities sold to the natives on the Pribilof Islands by the North American Commercial Co.

Since the year 1900 the prices charged on St. Paul and St. George Islands by the lessee company for necessaries of life have been increased materially. This action was sought to be justified by the company on the ground of increased wholesale cost to the retailer.

As instances, the following items are cited:

Coal increased from	per ton..	$15.50 to	$20.00
Tobacco increased from	per pound..	.30 to	.50
Hard bread increased from	do....	.05 to	.06
Salt beef increased from	do....	.10 to	.12½
Butter (reduced in 1905 to 70 cents a square of) increased from	per square 1½ pounds..	.60 to	.80
Drop shot increased from	per pound..	.10 to	.12½
Hosiery (reduced in 1905 to 50 cents pair) increased from	per pair..	.50 to	.60
Potatoes increased from	per pound..	.03 to	.03½
Shotgun primers increased from	per box of 250..	.40 to	.50

The increased cost to the natives of these articles amounts to approximately $3,500 per annum, representing the income from the labor incident to taking 7,000 sealskins.

In 1891 the natives' compensation for taking sealskins was fixed by the Treasury Department at 50 cents per skin. Previous to that date the natives received 40 cents. Since 1891 no change in the rate of compensation has been made. In addition, also, the company has continued for many years to compensate the natives for miscellaneous labor at the rate of 10 cents per hour, except for handling cargo, when 15 cents per hour is paid. It is understood that the same company pays similar natives at Dutch Harbor for laboring at the rate of $1.50 per day of 10 hours, with board.

By reason of the rapidly diminishing catch of seals, the earnings of the Pribilof Islands natives will become correspondingly attenuated.

The number of sealskins sold in London by the North American Commercial Co. and the average prices obtained since 1890 are appended. (See Hearings before Ways and Means, Mar. 9 and 10, 1904 p. 76.) The catches of 1904 and 1905 have been inserted by me:

Years.	Number of skins.	Average price per skin.
1890	28,859	$36.50
1891	12,040	30.00
1892	7,511	30.00
1893	7,396	27.00
1894	16,270	20.50
1895	14,846	20.25
1896	30,654	17.00
1897	19,200	15.50
1898	18,047	16.00
1899	16,812	26.00
1900	22,470	32.00
1901	22,672	34.00
1902	22,190	32.50
1903	19,212	29.50
1904	[1] 13,128	.....
1905	[1] 14,368	.....

[1] Inserted.

Since 1891 the wages for all classes of labor have increased generally throughout the United States as a result of the increased cost of living. The wages of the seal-island natives have remained the same, but the lessee has found it necessary on account of the increased cost of goods to raise the prices of the same on the islands. It is submitted that an increase in the wages paid by the lessee to the natives should be made to offset the raise in prices.

The compensation paid the natives for taking skins should be increased to 75 cents per skin. Based upon an estimated catch of 13,000 seals, this would result in a total increase of $3,250, which is $250 less than the estimated increase in the total cost of provisions caused by increased prices.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

NOVEMBER, 1905.

Prices of articles sold on Pribilof Islands by North American Commercial Co.

Articles.	Quantity.	Island price.	San Francisco retail price.	Reduced island price.
Apples, dried	Per pound	$0.15	$0.10	.....
Bacon	do	.25	.19½	.....
Baking powder	For 4 ounces	.20	[1] .20	.....
Beans, dried	Per pound	.08⅓	.05	$0.05
Bluing, balls	Box	.25	.10–.25	.....
Bread, pilot	Per pound	.06	[2] .25	.....
Butter	Per square of 1½ pounds	.80	.45	.70
Candles	Per set of 6	.20	.20	.15
Canned beef:				
Roast	Per 2-pound tin	.30	.30	.....
Corned	do	.30	.25	.....
Canned fruits	do	.30	.20–.25	.25
Canned vegetables:				
Beans	Per can	.20	.15	.....
Corn	do	.20	.15	.....
Tomatoes	do	.20	.12½	.....
Peas	do	.20	.12½	.....
Clams	do	.25	.10–.20	.....
Coal oil	Per gallon	.40	.26–.31	.....
Coffee	Per pound	.35	.25	.25
Crackers:				
Soda	do	.10	.10	.....
Sweet, assorted	do	.20	.15	.....
Currants, dried	do	.15	.15	.....
Flour	Per one-fourth barrel	1.75	1.25	.....
Gunpowder, Black Golden Pheasant.	Per pound	.80	.35	.50
Ham	do	.25	.15–.20	.....
Jelly	do	.25	[3] .20	.....
Lard	Per 2½ pounds	.50	.40	.....
	Per 5 pounds	.90	.65	.....
Matches, California sulphur	Per package	.10	.05	.05
Milk, Borden's condensed	Per can	.25	.15	.....
Mustard	Per ½ pound	.25	.20	.....
Onions, fresh	Per pound	.05	.....	.....
Oysters	Per can	.30	.20	.....
Peaches, dried	Per pound	.15	.15	.....
Pepper	Per ½ pound	.23	.20	.....
Potatoes, fresh	Per pound	.03½	.02½	.....
Prunes, dried	do	.15	.05–.12½	.....
Raisins	do	.15	.12½–.15	.....
Rice	Per 3 pounds	.25	.25	.....
Salmon	Per 2-pound tin	.25	.20	.....
Salt beef	Per pound	.12½	.10	.....
Salt pork	do	.15	.....	.....
Sardines, American	Per 2 tins	.25	.....	.....
Sauce, Worcester, American Club.	Per bottle	.40	L. & P., .25	.30
Soap:				
Kitchen	For 4 bars	.25	[4] .25	.....
Ivory	For 2 bars	.25	[5] .25	.....
Soups:				
Franco-American	Per can	.40	.35	.....
Columbia	do	.40	.....	.35

[1] For 6 ounces. [2] For 3 pounds. [3] For 2 pounds. [4] For 5 bars. [5] For 3 bars.

Prices of articles sold on Pribilof Islands by North American Commercial Co.—Continued.

Articles.	Quantity.	Island price.	San Francisco retail price.	Reduced island price.
Starch:				
Laundry	Per pound	$0.25	$0.12½	$0.15
Corn	do	.25	.10	.15
Sugar, cube	do	.10	.07½	
Sweet oil, American Durands, cottonseed.	Per quart bottle	.50	.20	.35
Sirup, Crown Drip		.80	.40	.70
Tea	Per pound	.50	.50	
Tobacco:				
Leaf	do	.50		
Durham	Per 3½ ounces	.25	.15	
Mastiff	do	.25	.15	
Vinegar	Per quart	.10	.08¾	
Yeast cakes	Per package	.15	.05	.10

CLOTHING.

Arctics:				
Men's short		$2.25	$1.75	
Women's short		1.50	1.25	
Misses' short		1.25	1.00	
Child's short		1.00		
Boots:				
Men's leather		6.00		
Youths' leather		3.00		
Boys' leather		2.50		
Buttons:				
Dress, metal	Per dozen	.25		$0.15
White porcelain	do	.02½		
Calico	Per yard	.10		
Canton flannel	do	.25		
Carpet, 2-ply ingrain	do	1.00		.75
Caps:				
Men's light		.75, 1.00		
Men's heavy		1.50		
Boys' light		.50		
Clothing:				
Men's suits		18.00		
Boys' suits, according to size.		5.00–12.00		
Men's pants		5.00		
Thread, cotton, O. N. T	3 spools for	.25	.05 each.	
Denim	Per yard	.20		
Dress goods:				
Mixed wool and cotton		.60		
Flannel, according to quality.		.50, .60, .75		
Gingham	Per yard	.15		
Gloves:				
Men's heavy leather		1.50		
Men's light leather		1.25		
Wool gloves and mittens, heavy.		.60		
Handkerchiefs:				
White, men's		.25		
Red cotton		.20		
Hooks and eyes	Per paper	.10		.05
Hose:				
Men's woolen socks	Per pair	.60		.50
Women's woolen hose	do	.60		.50
Misses' woolen hose	do	.50		.35
Child's woolen hose	do	.40, .30		.25
Babies' cotton hose	do	.20		.15
Leather:				
Soles and heels	do	.75		
Uppers, for skin boots	do	.75		
Muslin, barred, for dresses	Per yard	.25		
Common, according to quality.	do	.10, .12½, .15		
Sheeting, according to width.	do	.20, .25		
Neckties	Each	.50, .75		
Oilskin coats	do	3.00		
Overalls:				
Pants		1.00		
Blouse		25		

Prices of articles sold on Pribilof Islands by North American Commercial Co.—Continued.

Articles.	Quantity.	Island price.	San Francisco retail price.	Reduced island price.
Rubber boots:				
Men's hip		$6.00	$5.50	
Women's knee		2.25		
Rubber shoes:				
Men's		1.00		
Women's		.90		
Child's		.50, .60, .75		
Shirts:				
Men's woolen		2.00		
Men's white		1.50		
Men's negligee		.75, 1.25, 1.50		
Shoes:				
Men's		4.50	4.00	
Women's		4.50		
Child's, according to size		1.00–3.00		
Shoe strings:				
Cotton	Per pair	.05		
Leather	do	.10		
Silesia	Per yard	.20		$0.15
Suspenders	Per pair	.50, .75		
White Swiss	Per yard	.25		
Ticking, bed	do	.25		.20
Underwear:				
Men's heavy wool	Per garment	1.50		
Women's vests		1.50		
Yarn, Saxony, 12 hanks to pound.	Per hank	.15		
MISCELLANEOUS.				
Chimneys, lamp, all sizes		$0.15		
Cod line	Per pound	.40		
Cups	Each	.10		
Knives and forks (steel)	Per pair	.35		$0.25
Spoons	Each	.10		
Plates	2 for 25 cents, each	.12½		
Tumblers	3 for 25 cents, each	.08⅓		
Nails	Per pound	.10		
Needles:				
Sewing	Per package	.10		
Machine	2 for	.05		
Paints (mixed):				
Lead	Per pound	.15		
Zinc	do	.20		
Saucers	Each	.10		
Shovels, small fire	do	.25		.15
Tacks, carpet	Per package	.10		.05
Washboards	Each	.50		

Submitted by North American Commercial Co.

Articles.	Quantity.	Retail island price.	Retail San Francisco price.
Tea	Pound	$0.50	$0.50
Sugar	do	.10	.08⅓
Condensed milk	Can	.25	.15
Butter	Roll	.70	.70
Canned fruit	Can	.25	.25
Canned vegetables	do	.20	.20
Canned beef	do	.30	.30
Jelly	do	.25	.25
Rice	Pound	.08½	.06¼
Lard	do	.18	.14
Soda crackers	do	.10	.10
Assorted crackers	do	.20	.20
Raisins	do	.15	.15
Flour	½ sack	1.75	1.25
Pilot bread	Pound	.06	.08⅓
Candles	do	.15	.15
Lobster	Can	.25	.30
Soup	do	.35	.35

Submitted by North American Commercial Co.—Continued.

Articles.	Quantity.	Retail island price.	Retail San Francisco price.
Clams	Can	$0.30	$0.20
Oysters	do	.25	.25
Sirup	Quart	.20	.15
Coffee	Pound	.35	.35
Sardines	Box	.12½	.12½
Starch	Pound	.15	.12½
Dried fruit	do	.15	.15
Salt beef	do	.12½	.10
Salmon	Can	.30	.25
Potatoes	Pound	.03½	.02½
Onions	do	.05	.07
Bacon	do	.25	.20
Ham	do	.22½	.17½
Salt pork	do	.15	.15
Baking powder	½ pound	.20	.15
Sauce	Bottle	.30	.25
Sweet oil	do	.50	.50
Soap	Bar	.06¼	.07
Coal oil	Gallon	.40	.35
Heavy shoes	Pair	4.50	4.00
Rubber boots	do	6.00	5.50
Men's arctics	do	2.25	1.75
Women's arctics	do	1.50	1.25
Misses' arctics	do	1.25	1.00
Boys' boots	do	2.50	2.50
Men's rubbers	do	1.00	1.00
Women's rubbers	do	.80	.75
Raincoats	Each	3.00	2.25
Trousers	Pair	5.00	4.50
Jumpers	Each	1.25	.75
Overalls	Pair	1.00	.75
Arctic socks	do	.25	.25
Women's stockings	do	.60	.50
Do	do	.50	.35
Underwear	Garment	1.50	1.25
Overshirts	do	1.50	1.25
Do	do	.75	.75

St. Paul.

Butter cost to company in San Francisco per pound:	Cents.
1890	18
1891	22¾
1892	20
1893	20¾
1894	21
1895	12¾
1896	16
1897	17¾
1898	22¾
1899	20¾
1900	19¾
1901	18½
1902	21
1903	24
1904	23
1905	23¼
Average cost, San Francisco, 1890 to 1902	19⅕
Average cost, San Francisco, 1903 to 1905	23.41

Advance in San Francisco, 1903 to 1905 over 1890 to 1902, $21\frac{1}{10}$ per cent.
Advance on St. Paul, $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.

Flour cost to company in San Francisco per barrel:

1890	$4.00
1891	5.25
1893	3.70
1894	3.40
1895	2.90
1896	3.50
1897	4.10
1898	5.25
1899	3.35
1900	3.15
1901	2.90
1902	3.15
1903	4.10
1904	4.15
1905	4.35
Average price 1893 to 1902	3.54
Average price 1903 to 1905	4.20

Advance in San Francisco, 1903 to 1905 over 1893 to 1902, $18\frac{6}{10}$ per cent.
Advance on St. Paul Island, $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.

Salt beef cost to company in San Francisco per barrel:

1890	$10.50
1891	10.50
1892	10.50
1893	11.00
1894	11.00
1895	11.00
1896	11.00
1897	11.00
1898	12.00
1899	13.50
1900	14.50
1901	12.50
1902	12.50
1903	12.50
1904	12.50
1905	12.50
Average cost, 1890 to 1898	10.95
Average cost, 1899 to 1905	12.95

Advance in San Francisco, 1899 to 1905 over 1890 to 1898, $18\frac{3}{10}$ per cent.
Advance on St. Paul, 25 per cent.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
November 9, 1905.

To whom it may concern:

It is hereby ordered that the appropriations for "Salaries and traveling expenses of agents at seal fisheries in Alaska, 1906," and "Supplies for native inhabitants, Alaska, 1906" (sundry civil act, Mar. 3, 1905), shall be expended under the immediate direction of the solicitor of the department, subject to the supervision of the Secretary.

V. H. METCALF, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, November 11, 1905.

Mr. E. W. SIMS,
Solicitor, Department Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith my accounts for expenses incurred in traveling from St. Paul Island, Alaska, to Washington, D. C., amounting to $173.85. The hotel bill includes a charge of $2.50 for laundry and $1.25 for transfer of baggage. It was not convenient to procure a subvoucher for the charge of excess baggage. My understanding is that the department will pay only such expenses as are incurred in making a continuous journey on a limited ticket. I did not travel in that manner, and the charges for railroad fare, berth in Pullman, meals, and porterage on train are therefore made in bulk, so as to equal in amount what they would have been had the departmental method been pursued. As a matter of fact, my actual expenses exceeded considerably the amounts herein stated.

Mr. Lembkey furnished me a request for Government transportation from San Francisco to Columbus, Ohio, amounting to $68.50, which was honored by the Southern Pacific Railroad Co., and for which due credit is given in the account.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

[Memorandum.—In re: Appropriation for natives' supplies, Pribilof Islands.]

In a recent ruling the Comptroller of the Treasury decided that articles of necessity not embraced in the term "Food, fuel, and clothing" can not be purchased from the appropriation for "Food, fuel, and clothing for native inhabitants of Alaska."

This appropriation is used for the maintenance of the native inhabitants on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska, otherwise known as the "seal islands."

It is obvious that there are other articles as essential in the domestic economy as food, fuel, and clothing. These other essentials can not be purchased from the appropriation, but must be obtained through the only other available fund for natives' support—namely, their earnings from taking sealskins.

If these earnings were sufficient in the case of each native man of family, no difficulty would be experienced; but it is a fact that the earnings of only a few men on the islands are sufficient to provide them with the necessaries of life—not food, fuel, and clothing—and that it will be impossible to comply with the ruling of the Comptroller without suffering to the natives.

This can be easily demonstrated. The estimated amount of necessaries required and issued to each native family during the year, compiled from the issues made for the year 1905, is as follows:

1 pound candles per week, at 20 cents	$10.40
4 bars laundry soap, biweekly, at 25 cents	6.50
1 gallon coal oil, biweekly, at 40 cents	10.40
1 pound leaf tobacco, weekly, at 50 cents	26.00
5 pounds powder, per year, at 80 cents	4.00
25 pounds shot, per year, at 12½ cents	3.13
2 boxes primers, per year, at 50 cents	1.00
2 boxes 45–70 cartridges, per year, at $1	2.00

1 package matches, biweekly, at 10 cents	$2.60
Cooking utensils, pots, pans, kettles, etc	10.00
Tableware—knives, forks, cups, saucers, plates, spoons, tumblers, tablecloths, etc	8.00
Stove repairs, stovepipe, stove lids, stove castings, fire brick, fire clay, etc	5.00
Sundries, including funeral expenses, lumber, nails, paint, wall paper, oars, cod lines, fishing hooks, material for bird snares, sailcloth, etc	10.00
Total	99.03

The earnings for 1905 were as follows:

St. George.

14 first-class men, each	$86.25
4 second-class men, each	69.00
5 third-class men, each	51.70

St. Paul.

21 first-class men, each	$197.95
6 second-class men, each	158.40
5 third-class men, each	118.80
5 fourth-class men, each	79.20
4 fifth-class men, each	49.50
4 special-class men, each	30.15

Since the estimated amount required to provide those necessaries not included in the term "food, fuel, and clothing" is $99.03 per family, it can be seen at a glance that of the St. George natives not one will earn sufficient to provide the usual amount of necessaries for his family, while on St. Paul 13 men will be in a similar situation.

In view of the foregoing and of the fact that suffering to the natives would result in the enforcement of the comptroller's ruling, it is again respectfully urged that Congress be requested to enlarge the scope of the natives' appropriation, so that it may be utilized for the purchase of necessaries of life in general, as well as food, fuel, and clothing.

Respectfully submitted.

———— ————,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

NOVEMBER, 1905.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, December 19, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: In connection with the transfer to this office of the Alaskan Fur-Seal Fisheries Service and the assignment of a room in this building to be occupied by the seal-island agents now at the department, I have the honor to make the following recommendations:

(1) That the service mentioned be made a division of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to be styled the "Division of Seal Fisheries."

(2) That all files and records relating to the service now in the office of the chief clerk or elsewhere be moved to the room now occupied by the seal agents, there to be arranged and made current.

Very respectfully,

EDWIN W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

Approved:

———— ————,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 21, 1905.

SIR: It is hereby ordered that all files and records of the Alaskan Fur-Seal Fisheries Service now in the office of the chief clerk or elsewhere be moved to the room now occupied by the fur-seal agents in the department, there to be arranged and made current.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF, *Secretary.*

The CHIEF CLERK,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

PART II. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO REVENUE-CUTTER PATROL.

MARCH 11, 1905.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith copies of two telegrams, under date of February 23 and February 24, respectively, from Mr. Taylor, president of the North American Commercial Co., of San Francisco, to Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, of Washington, D. C., relative to a report that the American schooner *Carmencita* is outfitting at Victoria, B. C., for a sealing cruise to be made under the Norwegian flag.

Early last summer the *Carmencita* cleared from San Francisco flying the Mexican flag, and is said to have proceeded to the Commander Islands for the purpose of raiding the Russian fur-seal rookeries. One of her boats that approached the shore was fired upon by the Russians and a member of the crew seriously wounded. The attempted raid was thereupon abandoned and the *Carmencita* proceeded to Victoria, B. C. She brought to that port a number of fur-seal skins, some of which were presumably taken in the neighborhood of the Commander Islands. It is reported that the crew of the *Carmencita* was made up at San Francisco and consisted chiefly of United States citizens. After the facts regarding the attempted raid on the Commander Islands became known the *Carmencita* is said to have been deprived of her registry as a Mexican vessel. According to the telegrams, of which copies are herewith inclosed, she is now preparing for another sealing cruise. There is reason to suspect that some of her crew are Americans.

It is requested that instructions be issued to our revenue vessels in the North Pacific and Alaskan waters to be on the lookout for the *Carmencita,* and if encountered on the high seas flying the American flag to board and search her, and should it be discovered that she is carrying any sealing apparatus to place her under arrest, in accordance with the provisions of the act of December 29, 1897 (30 Stat., 226).

If she is found sailing under the flag of Norway, or any other foreign nation, with sealing apparatus on board, and manned in whole or in part by American citizens, a full report of the matter should be made to the department in order that if it seems desirable the case can be brought to the attention of the Government under the protection of whose flag American citizens are engaging in unlawful sealing.

In view of the fact that negotiations are now pending between the United States and Great Britain for a revision of the fur-seal regulations, it is particularly important at this time that all possible means should be taken to prevent any illegal sealing by United States citizens.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *February 23, 1905.*

Hon. CHAS. J. FAULKNER,
Kellogg Building, Washington, D. C.:

Victoria (British Columbia) Colonist, 18th instant, says Capt. McLean and 6 hunters from San Francisco are at Victoria preparing schooner *Carmencita* for sealing cruise. Notify department.

TAYLOR.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *February 27, 1905.*

Hon. CHAS. J. FAULKNER,
Kellogg Building, Washington, D. C.:

Carmencita now flies Norwegian flag. Are we to understand Government will not interfere with American citizens engaging in pelagic sealing?

TAYLOR.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, April 25, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: (1) I have the honor to state that it has been customary for the President to designate each season a vessel of the Revenue-Cutter Service to patrol the Bering Sea for the enforcement of the law in relation to the killing of seals; also that it has been the practice of this department to detail a vessel of the service each year to visit the canneries in Alaska to enable the special agent assigned to that duty to make an inspection of the same.

(2) I have respectfully to ask that, if it is desired that vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service perform the duties referred to the present season, an official request to that effect be made to this department.

(3) I have further to request that in case Mr. H. M. Kutchin (the special agent for the Department of Commerce and Labor, who has made previous cannery cruises) is to be selected for the duty this season, that he be requested to confer as soon as practicable with the chief of division, Revenue-Cutter Service, upon the subject.

(4) In the event of the services of these vessels being required it is further desired that the date of departure be deferred as late as possible, in view of the present condition of the appropriation for the

maintenance of the Revenue-Cutter Service, which necessitates keeping the expenses down to the lowest possible point for the balance of the current fiscal year.

Respectfully,

L. M. SHAW,
Secretary.

APRIL 27, 1905.

SIR: With reference to your letter of the 25th instant, I have the honor to request that the usual steps be taken to arrange for the patrol of Bering Sea by vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service for the enforcement of the laws and regulations in reference to the killing of fur seals.

Attention is invited to the fact that several weeks ago a representative of this department conferred with Assistant Secretary Taylor, under whose immediate jurisdiction the Revenue-Cutter Service has been placed, with reference to the proposed patrol, and the desirability of having at least two vessels detailed for that purpose was discussed. It is not believed that an effective patrol can be made by a single vessel, and your department is therefore earnestly requested to arrange for the detail of at least two revenue cutters for the patrol work of the coming season.

Up to the present time this department has not received any report regarding the patrol of Bering Sea by the revenue cutter detailed for that purpose last summer. Such a report is desired.

V. H. METCALF, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 2, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: (1) Agreeably to the request contained in your letter of the 27th ultimo, I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of Capt. H. B. Rogers, Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the *McCulloch*, dated November 9 last, of the cruise of that vessel in the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in the enforcement of the laws for the prevention of killing of seals.

(2) I have respectfully to request that when you have finished with the report it be returned to this department.

Respectfully,

H. A. TAYLOR, *Acting Secretary.*

MAY 9, 1905.

SIR: With reference to your letter of the 2d instant, I beg to return herewith the report of Capt. H. B. Rogers, Revenue-Cutter Service, relative to the cruise during the past summer of the *McCulloch* in the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in connection with the enforcement of the laws against pelagic sealing.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 24, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: Referring to previous correspondence in relation to the U. S. S. *Manning* and *Perry*, which have been designated to cruise the present season for the enforcement of the laws relating to fur-seal fishing, etc., I have respectfully to state that it is expected that both of these vessels will leave Seattle, Wash., under the orders approved by the Department of Commerce and Labor, on or about the 5th of June next.

Respectfully,

J. B. REYNOLDS,
Acting Secretary.

MAY 25, 1905.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th instant, stating that the U. S. S. *Manning* and *Perry* are expected to leave Seattle, Wash., about June 5 under orders approved by the Department of Commerce and Labor, on a cruise having for its object the enforcement of the laws relating to fur-seal fishing.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, September 15, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a report, dated the 6th instant, from Capt. W. H. Roberts, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the U. S. S. *Perry*, on the seal and salmon fisheries of Alaska.

Respectfully,

L. M. SHAW,
Secretary.

REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
U. S. S. "PERRY,"
Seattle, Wash., September 6, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: As directed in paragraph 5 of department letter of May 23, 1905, I have the honor to submit the following report on the seal and salmon fisheries of Alaska.

The *Perry* visited the Pribilof Islands twice during the summer. On the first occasion, the night of July 3, was spent off Village Landing, St. George Island, and a short visit was made to St. Paul Island the following day. At the time conditions were not favorable for

landing, and only one visit was made to the shore at each place, for the purpose of landing the mail. It was impossible to learn anything in regard to the condition of the seal herd or fisheries at this time.

On the second visit, July 9, the weather was such that the St. George mail had to be landed at Garden Cove, and no one connected with the island was seen. Dense fog shut down before St. Paul Island was reached, and as Special Agent Kutchin had come on board for the purpose of visiting the canneries in Bristol Bay, the cruise was continued without waiting for the fog to lift, as our supply of coal was limited and there was no telling how long we would be delayed.

No seals were seen in the sea and very few in the immediate vicinity of the islands. From the sealing schooners boarded it was learned that about the same number of vessels would hunt in Bering Sea this year as last—that is, about 13 British and as many more under the Japanese flag. In regard to the schooner *Carmencita*, about which special instructions were received, it was learned that she had been on the Vancouver coast during the winter and spring, and later in the vicinity of the Middleton Islands. The latest report was that she had been spoken to the westward of Dutch Harbor, bound for the Copper Islands.

In regard to the salmon fisheries, I would say that during the season 22 cannery ports were visited, and such information as it was possible to obtain during the short time we were at each place was secured.

At Naknek the run of fish seems to have been above the average, all of the canneries having made a full pack except one, that one failing through mismanagement. The fishing here is done with gill nets in the lower river and bay, where the water is muddy. Local fishermen stated that the fish ran a little larger than usual. Red salmon, with an early run of king, form the bulk of the supply here and are the only fish canned.

On the Nushagak the season was unprecedented both in regard to the length of run and number of fish. Here, as on the Naknek, the greater part of the fish are taken in gill nets. Each cannery, however, has one or more traps. The fish were so plentiful that it was found necessary, in most cases, to put the fishermen on a limit and lift the traps, as the fishermen brought in more fish than could be used. The cannery located on the Ugashak River was supplied from this river, as there were, practically speaking, no fish running there.

The season's output from Bristol Bay was estimated at over 1,200,000 cases, notwithstanding several canneries were not in operation this year.

The canneries on Chignik Bay are supplied altogether by traps. An exceptionally good run of red and king salmon was the report at this place.

Up to the time of our visit the season at Karluk had been very poor, but some hope was expressed that the fall run would be exceptionally good and make up for the early shortage. The fishing here is done with extremely long seines, which are led out and hauled in by steam. During a good season sometimes as high as 35,000 or 40,000 fish are taken at a single haul.

Uyak reported a fair season. Most of the fish for this plant are taken in the vicinity of Karluk and by the same method.

At Orca, on Prince William Sound, the pack had been completed at the only cannery running the day before our arrival. The season had been exceptionally good.

The fish for the Yakutat cannery are caught by means of seines and gill nets in the two rivers a few miles to the southward and are brought overland on the Yakutat & Southern Railway. Both red and pink fish are canned at this and all of the South-Eastern Alaska plants. The season was well up to the average.

At Dundas Bay, the next point visited, the season had been very poor, and of the fish secured only a very small percentage were of the red variety.

At Hooniah a dry salting plant is located. The owner was under contract to furnish several hundred tons of dry-salted dog salmon to a Japanese agent, but up to the time of our arrival had met with poor success, the fish being under the contract size of 6 pounds, and very few taken.

At Funter Bay, our next stop, the cannery was doing well, having exceeded last year's pack so far, and with a greater proportion of red fish. They had dry-salted over 300 tons of dog salmon, the fish being especially fine, running from 200 to 300 to the ton. Dry-salting dog salmon is a growing industry; the demand is increasing, and the supply practically unlimited. This variety of fish is not suitable for canning, but is prime for this method of salting. The fish are caught in the traps and nets along with the red and pink varieties, and a very few years ago were regarded as a nuisance. When taken in the regular course of fishing for the cannery supply the fish cost practically nothing. No skilled labor or machinery is required in the salting. The product brings from $28 to $35 per ton.

At Taku Harbor the plant of the Pacific Cold Storage Co. is located. At the time of our visit there were on exhibition in one of the freezing rooms 23 varieties of fish from the local waters, ranging in size from a 326-pound halibut to a 6-inch rainbow trout, and including 7 varieties of salmon. The greater part of the product of the plant is sent to Europe, frozen. There is also a cannery attached, which had made a little better than the usual pack up to date. Eighty-five tons of dog salmon had been dry-salted, and it was expected that at least 65 tons more would be cured before the close of the season.

The canneries at the head of Lynn Canal had made about an average pack at the time of our visit, as had also the canneries at Loring, Sitkoh Bay, Bay of Pillars, Lake Bay, Tonka, Klawak, Shakan, and Metlakahtla.

A special report of the Japanese fishing operations at Attu was mailed from Dutch Harbor upon the return of the *Perry* from the cruise to the westward. There are three Japanese vessels duly entered at Juneau that are buying fish and salting them down on board in the waters of southeastern Alaska.

This vessel was employed on business connected the canneries, with Special Agent H. M. Kutchin on board from July 8 to August 25, 1905, a distance of 3,826.6 miles being cruised.

Respectfully,

W. H. Roberts,
Captain, Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1905.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th instant, transmitting a report by Capt. W. H. Roberts, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the steamer *Perry*, on the seal and salmon fisheries of Alaska.

Respectfully,

H. A. TAYLOR,
Acting Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, October 5, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a further report, dated the 20th ultimo, from Capt. C. C. Fengar, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the *Manning*, in relation to the salmon and seal fisheries of Alaska.

Respectfully,

H. A. TAYLOR,
Acting Secretary.

REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
U. S. S. "MANNING,"
Seattle, Wash., September 20, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: As directed in department letter of May 22, 1905, I have the honor to submit the following additional report of the cruise of the *Manning*, in so far as it relates to the salmon and seal fisheries, for the information of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Upon the *Manning's* arrival at Dutch Harbor, June 13, inquiry was made to ascertain whether or not any Japanese vessels had been employed in the salmon or seal fisheries in that vicinity, but none had been to that port, although two letters that had arrived at that port for the master of the Japanese schooner *Kinsei Maru* indicated that she expected to touch at that place, where she subsequently did on her way to the sealing grounds. She had 399 sealskins, taken in the North Pacific, but was not sighted during our cruise in the sea.

I was informed that a number of Japanese fishermen were engaged in salmon fishing near the shores of Attu Island, but, as the *Manning* did not go that far to the westward, the matter could not be investigated by this vessel.

The revenue cutter *Perry*, however, touched at Attu, and her commanding officer no doubt took measures to safeguard the Government's interests.

Comparatively few vessels have been engaged in seal fishing in Bering Sea the past season. Two British vessels, the schooners *Jessie* and *Dora Sieward*, called at Dutch Harbor on the 26th and 28th of July, respectively, on their way to Bering Sea. They had caught no seals in the North Pacific at that time.

Three vessels were boarded by the *Manning* in Bering Sea during the season, being the only ones sighted, viz, August 18, American whaling bark *Gayhead*, Fisher, master, 150 barrels oil and 2,000 pounds bone in latitude 56–52 N., longitude 170–34 W.; August 18, British schooner *Vera*, of Victoria, St. Clair, master, in latitude 57–46 N., longitude 171–52–30 W. She had been in the sea but two days and was leaving for home, having taken no seals in the sea. She had 542 skins taken outside the sea and had sent home 36 skins; August 19, British schooner *City of San Diego*, of Victoria, Folger, master, in latitude 57–25–30 N., longitude 172–46–45 W., sealing. She had 427 skins on board, most of which had been caught outside of Bering Sea, and had sent home 152 skins.

No violations of law in regard to the sealing or salmon fisheries were discovered by the *Manning* this season. From my observation there were but few seals in the sea outside of a radius of a few miles from the islands.

The total kill for the islands of St. Paul and St. George this season was about 14,000, an increase of about 1,000 over last year's kill, I am informed.

Respectfully,

CHAS. C. FENGAR,
Captain, Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

OCTOBER 7, 1905.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th instant, transmitting a supplementary report, dated September 20, from Capt. C. C. Fengar, of the revenue steamer *Manning*, relative to the salmon and seal fisheries of Alaska.

Respectfully,

JAMES RUDOLPH GARFIELD,
Acting Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

PART III. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, April 8, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent Fur-Seal Service,
Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: In compliance with an application received from the North American Commercial Co. in a letter dated the 29th ultimo, the Secretary of the Treasury has been this day requested to instruct the collector of customs at San Francisco to permit the company named to ship from that port to the Pribilof Islands during the current fiscal year liquors for medicinal purposes only, and ammunition, in the following quantities:

St. Paul Island (population—native, 160; white, 15; total, 175).

4 barrels beer.
2 cases whisky.
6 kegs whisky (30 gallons).

1 keg brandy (5 gallons).
1 keg rum.
1 case gin.
4 cases still wine.
10 gallons claret.
2 kegs port wine (5 gallons each).
2 kegs sherry (5 gallons each).
15 gallons alcohol.
1 case champagne.
4,000 cartridges, .22 short.
4,000 cartridges, .22 long.
1,000 cartridges, .44 Win.

St. George Island (population—native, 94; white, 7; total, 101).

3 barrels beer.
2 kegs whisky (5 gallons each).
1 case whisky.
2 kegs brandy (5 gallons each).
3 cases still wine.
1 case gin.
1 keg port wine (5 gallons).
1 keg sherry (5 gallons).
5 gallons alcohol.
200 cartridges, .38 caliber.
1,000 cartridges, .22 long.
1 only rifle, .22 short.
150 pounds powder.

Respectfully,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

[Requisition for supplies.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF SEAL FISHERIES IN ALASKA,
St. Paul Island, April 12, 1905.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

One Standard Unabridged Dictionary of the English language.

NOTE.—The one now on the station is entirely useless from loss of part of its leaves. Frequent use of a dictionary is essential to the work of the agent in making reports and reading the works pertaining to the sealing industry. A small one would not be available for the purposes.

Received the above June 6, 1905.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

NOTE.—Receipt and return this requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

[Requisition for supplies.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF SEAL FISHERIES IN ALASKA,
St. George Island, April 12, 1905.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

One Standard Dictionary of the English language.

NOTE.—The one now on the station is altogether useless from loss of part of its leaves. Frequent reference to a dictionary is essential to the business of the agent in preparing reports and examining the works pertaining to the sealing. A small one would not be available for the purposes.

Received the above June 15, 1905.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent for Seal Fisheries in Alaska.

NOTE.—Receipt and return this requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, April 15, 1905.

SIR: You are hereby authorized to purchase in San Francisco the following photographic material at a total cost not to exceed $50, this expenditure to be paid from the appropriation for "Contingent expenses, Department of Commerce and Labor, 1905":

12 dozen Cramer crown plates, 8 by 10.
8 rolls films 4 by 5, for No. 4 C. kodak, 12 ex. each.
1 gross Velox paper, 8 by 10.
2 packs dev. powders for style E machine.
3 ounces pyrogallic acid.
3 pounds sulphite of soda, dry.
1 pound carbonate of soda, dry.
25 pounds hyposulphite of soda.
2 ounces metal.
2 ounces hydrochinone.
2 hard-rubber trays, 10 by 12.
1 gross Velox paper, 4 by 5.

Yours, respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, April 20, 1905.

SIR: You are hereby authorized to purchase in San Francisco the following materials at a total cost not to exceed $21, this expenditure to be paid from the appropriation for "Contingent expenses, Department of Commerce and Labor, 1905":

2 White's No. 33 kerosene tinner's hot-blast furnaces.
12 pounds bar copper, 1 inch round.
8 pair sheep shears.

Yours, respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Alaskan Fur-Seal Service,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 1, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

SIR: I inclose herewith for your information a copy of a letter that has been this day addressed to the North American Commercial Co., requesting that no shipments of Florida water or other spirituous perfumeries be made to the seal islands in receptacles larger than the standard ounce bottle. In order that the object of these instructions to the company may be attained, you will please see that the storekeepers on the islands are directed not to issue more than one of these small bottles per week to a native purchaser, nor shall any spirituous perfume be sold to natives where there is reason to believe that such perfume is to be put to an improper use.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 17, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of department's letter of the 1st ultimo, restricting the sale to the native inhabitants of these islands by the North American Commercial Co. of Florida water and other spirituous perfumeries.

I have forwarded a copy of department's letter, above referred to, with proper instructions, to Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester, in

charge of St. George Island, and will take the necessary steps to see that the regulation is properly observed here.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 1, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

SIR: I inclose herewith for your information a copy of a letter that has been this day addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting him to instruct the collector of customs at San Francisco to permit the North American Ecclesiastical Consistory, 1715 Powell Street, San Francisco, Cal., to ship 10 gallons of church wine (nonalcoholic) to the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska, to be used only by the priests on the islands and solely for sacramental purposes.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF, *Secretary.*

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 18, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of department's letter of the 1st ultimo, containing notification of permission granted to the Russian Church to ship 10 gallons of nonalcoholic wine to the Pribilof Islands, to be used for sacramental purposes.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

[Telegram.]

(7 Wu. O. Ev., 26 collect Govt.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
San Francisco, Cal., May 18, 1905.

DEPARTMENT COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

Request authority expend $35 photographic supplies St. George Island, omitted by department. Deemed necessary.

EZRA W. CLARK, *Agent.*

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, May 19, 1905.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.:

Authority granted, expend $35 photographic supplies, St. George Island.

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 15, 1905.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: Receipt is acknowledged of your letters of May 31 and June 17, 1905, transmitting returns of ordnance and ordnance stores in use on the seal islands.

The supply of ammunition on hand on the islands should be maintained so far as possible at 1,500 rounds, which is the amount loaned to this department by the Chief of Ordnance. To replace the ammunition expended in practice firing, request has been made upon the War Department to send 1,000 rounds of ball cartridges, caliber .30, contained in one hermetically sealed case, addressed to you. You should make such distribution of the ammunition between the two islands as you may deem proper.

This will bring the supply up to the full number of 1,500 rounds, and leave a balance of 150 rounds available for practice firing during the present year. Arrangement will be made with you after your return to the States in reference to the amount to be furnished each year for practice firing.

The department will reimburse the War Department for the 1,000 rounds which have been ordered sent on the North American Commerical Co.'s steamer, leaving San Francisco about the 27th instant, so that ordnance returns will continue to be made on 1,500 rounds. It will be advisable to keep the ammunition intact, and use the older ammunition in practice firing.

In case of threatened raids on the rookeries, you will, of course, use ammunition in any amount that may be necessary for the protection of the rookeries or the adequate preparation of the natives for the defense.

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St Paul Island, Alaska, May 31, 1905.

Mr. F. H. HITCHCOCK,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt, in October last, of a letter dated August 29, 1904, from Mr. F. H. Bowen, acting chief clerk, inclosing for verification, so far as it relates to property in my possession, a statement from the War Department of ordnance and ordnance stores turned over to the Department of Commerce and Labor.

In reply, I have to return the inclosure mentioned, with the statement that the articles mentioned in the list as furnished to me were all received, distributed between the two islands, and are at present there in good condition, with the exception of 900 cartridges, caliber .30, which were expended in target practice by the natives, 500 being so used on St. George under the direction of Assistant Agent Judge and 400 on St. Paul under Assistant Agent Chichester and myself. This latter action was taken because of the unfamiliarity of the natives with the magazine rifle, and the necessity for a knowledge of its action in case of emergency.

To meet this expenditure, I have to request that the War Department be asked to furnish 1,000 additional cartridges, caliber .30, 500 to St. George and 500 to St. Paul.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 17, 1905.

Mr. FRANK H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: I have to return herewith a signed return of ordnance and ordnance stores in use on this island, received by me to-day on the company's steamer *Kruger*.

In connection with the ammunition marked thereon as "expended," I have to call your attention to my letter of the 31st ultimo, explaining the matter and asking for a further issue for these islands of 1,500 (1,000, see letter) rounds of ball cartridges, caliber .30.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

Semiannual return of ordnance and ordnance stores received and issued by and remaining in charge of Department of Commerce and Labor during the half year ended June 30, 1904.

Mar. 23, 1904. Received from Treasury Department (steamer *Pathfinder*):

Springfield rifles, caliber .45	12
Colt's revolvers, caliber .45	6
Screw drivers	3
Tumbler punches	2
Spring vise	1
Wiping rods	2
Rifle ball cartridges, caliber .45	790
Revolver ball cartridges, caliber .45	336
Arm chest	1

Mar. 23, 1904. Received from Treasury Department (W. I. Lembkey, St. Paul Island, Bering Sea):

Magazine rifles, caliber .30	18
Cartridge belts, infantry, caliber .30	18
Gun slings	18
Screw drivers	4
Small-arm oilers	18
Ball cartridges, caliber .30	1,500
Arm chest	1

I certify that the foregoing return exhibits a correct statement of the public property in my charge during the half year ended June 30, 1904, and that the maximum strength of the enlisted men under my command during the half year engaged in target practice was —— men.

——— ———,

———— ———.

Station: Department of Commerce and Labor, June 30, 1904.
Post-office address of the station: Washington, D. C.

Semiannual return of ordnance and ordnance stores received and issued by and remaining in charge of Department of Commerce and Labor during the half year ended June 30, 1904.

March 23, 1904. Received from Treasury Department (steamer *Pathfinder*):

Springfield rifles, caliber .45	12
Colt's revolvers, caliber .45	6
Screw drivers	3
Tumbler punches	2
Spring vise	1
Wiping rods	2
Rifle ball cartridges, caliber .45	790
Revolver ball cartridges, caliber .45	336
Arm chest	1

March 23, 1904. Received from Treasury Department (W. I. Lembkey, St. Paul Island, Bering Sea):

Magazine rifles, caliber .30	18
Cartridge belts, infantry, caliber .30	18
Gun slings	18
Screw drivers	4
Small-arm oilers	18
Ball cartridges, caliber .30	1,500
Arm chest	1

I certify that the foregoing return exhibits a correct statement of the public property in my charge during the half year ended June 30, 1904, and that the maximum strength of the enlisted men under my command during the half year engaged in target practice was —— men.

——— ———,

———— ———.

Station: Department of Commerce and Labor, June 30, 1904.
Post-office address of the station: Washington, D. C.

Quarterly return of ordnance and ordnance stores in possession of seal agents for the quarter ending June 30, 1905.

	Magazine rifles, caliber .30.	Gun slings.	Cartridge belts, infantry, caliber .30.	Rifle ball cartridges, caliber .30.	Arm chests.	Small-arm oilers.	Screw drivers.
On hand from last return....	18	18	18	1,500	1	18	4
Total issued and expended.....	.....	.....	.....	[1] 850	.....	.....	.....
Remaining on hand to be accounted for on next return.....	18	18	18	650	1	18	4

[1] The number of cartridges marked "expended" were necessarily used in target practice, to familiarize the men with the magazine arm.—W. I. Lembkey. One thousand rounds purchased and sent in 1905 to replenish supply.—F. H. B.

I certify that the foregoing return exhibits a correct statement of the ordnance, ordnance stores, etc., in my charge during the quarter ending June 30, 1905.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

Station: Islands of St. Paul and St. George, Pribilof group, Alaska, June 17, 1905.
Post-office address of the station: St. Paul Island, Alaska (Pribilof group), via Dutch Harbor.

OFFICE OF AGENT IN CHARGE SEAL ISLANDS,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, August 13, 1905.

Mr. F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

Dear SIR: I have to submit herewith the stubs of vouchers for supplies issued to the natives of the seal islands by the North American Commercial Co. during the fiscal year 1905, payable from the appropriation for "Food, fuel, and clothing for native inhabitants of Alaska, 1905."

By reason of the increase of $5 in the price of coal last spring, of which I could not learn until June, the appropriation will probably fall short by $175 of paying the inclosed vouchers.

It is understood, however, that the charges for tobacco therein will be disallowed, in accordance with the action of the accounting officers on the vouchers for 1904, and the amount so disallowed, in all probability, will be sufficient to make up the sum lacking.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, October 31, 1905.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: In response to your verbal request, I have the honor to report that the following amounts of coal will be required to be

shipped to the seal islands of Alaska in the spring of 1906, for use during the year following:

	Tons.
St. Paul:	
For natives' use (to be paid for by department)	200
For natives' use (lease coal, free of cost)	50
For Government house	15
Total	265
St. George:	
For natives' use (to be paid by department)	85
For natives' use (lease coal, free of cost)	30
For Government house	15
Total	130

The above amounts of coal are classified as regards payment as follows:

	Tons.
For natives' use (appropriation "Supplies, native inhabitants")	285
For natives' use (furnished free by lessee)	80
For Government houses (appropriation 'for support Government building')	30
Total	395

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

1906.

Part I. Instructions to Agents and Agents' Reports.

March 9, 1906.

Mr. W. I. Lembkey,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Sir: Section 1. *Order to proceed to island.*—You are directed to proceed to the seal islands in time to arrive there before the beginning of the sealing season of 1906, there to assume charge of the Government's interests on the islands. Assistant Agent Judge has been instructed to accompany you to the islands and to report to you for instructions.

Sec. 2. *Assignment of assistants.*—You will make such assignment of the assistant agents for the season's work as in your opinion will best subserve the interests of the service and the welfare of the native inhabitants, notifying the department of your action in this regard.

Sec. 3. *Agents to report to Washington.*—At the close of the sealing season, or as soon thereafter as feasible, yourself and Assistant Agent E. W. Clark will return to Washington and report for duty at the department. Assistant Agent Chichester, as well as Assistant Agent Judge, will remain on the islands during the coming winter. Should Assistant Agent Clark voluntarily elect to remain on the islands another winter in place of Assistant Agent Chichester, you are authorized to make such arrangement, allowing, in that event, Agent Chichester to report for duty at Washington.

Sec. 4. *Copies of contract inclosed.*—Inclosed herewith are copies of the contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co., and it will be your duty and that of your assistants to see that its provisions are enforced and that the rights of the Government and those of the lessee are duly protected.

Sec. 5. *Decision in event of difference.*—Should a difference of opinion arise at any time between yourself and the representatives of the company in respect to a matter of administration on the islands, your decision must govern; but in all such cases you should request the superintendent of the company to furnish a written statement of his views on the question involved. This statement should be transmitted to the department, with an expression of your own views, at the earliest practicable moment.

Sec. 6. *Quota.*—If the condition of the herd will permit, the lessee may be allowed to take during the season of 1906 as many as 13,000 male seals of the proper age on the island of St. Paul and as many as 2,000 on the island of St. George, but not more than the number specified in either case, provided, however, that in case the number of male seals hauling on St. George Island is so greatly in excess of the number usually hauling there as to convince the Government agent in charge on St. George that there has been a material contemporaneous diminution in the number of male seals hauling on St. Paul

Island, said agent in charge may, in his discretion, authorize the taking of a total of not to exceed 3,000 seals on St. George Island. This taking is, of course, to be subject to all other requirements and limitations of these regulations. The numbers to which the quotas of the two islands are thus limited shall be inclusive of any skins accepted by the company from food drives made prior to the present sealing season. No seals shall be taken this season that have reached the age of 4 years (i. e., seals that have attained their fifth summer), nor shall any seals be taken that are under 2 years of age.

SEC. 7. *Reservation of young males.*—In order to remove all doubt as to the reservation of a sufficient number of male seals for the perpetuation of the herd, you are instructed to release from among the best seals appearing in the first drives of the season not less than 1,000 3-year-old males and not less than 1,000 2-year-old males. Of the 3-year-olds and 2-year-olds to be reserved, 800 of each shall be released on the island of St. Paul and 200 of each on the island of St. George. The seals thus released are to be marked in such a manner as will make them readily recognizable throughout the season, and under no circumstances are they to be taken by the lessee.

SEC. 8. *Sizes of killable seals.*—No seals shall be killed having skins weighing less than 5 pounds nor more than 8½ pounds. Skins weighing more than 8½ pounds shall not be shipped from the islands, but shall be held there subject to such instructions as may be furnished you hereafter by the department. Skins weighing less than 5 pounds shall not be shipped from the islands, unless, in your judgment, the number thereof is so small as to justify the belief that they have been taken only through unavoidable accident, mistake, or error in judgment.

SEC. 9. *Killing season.*—The killing season should begin as soon after the 1st of June as the rookeries are in condition for driving. Seals shall not be killed by the lessee later than July 31. No seals whatever shall be taken during the stagey season. The killing of pups for food for the natives, or for any other purpose, is not to be permitted.

SEC. 10. *Seals for food.*—The number of seals to be killed by the natives for food during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1906, shall not exceed 1,700 on the island of St. Paul and 500 on the island of St. George, subject to the same limitations and restrictions as apply to the killing of seals by the company for its quota. Care should be taken that no branded seals be killed in the drives for food.

SEC. 11. *Driving.*—The representatives of the company on the islands should be required to give notice on the day preceding that on which they desire to make a drive of the seals, stating the name of the rookery selected. The time, place, and manner of conducting all drives shall be subject to your approval. A representative of the Government should be present on the killing grounds in each instance to superintend the killing. If at any time the methods employed in driving or killing appear, in your judgment, to be faulty or detrimental to the seal herd you should see that such methods are immediately corrected, indicating to the representatives of the company what changes are to be made.

SEC. 12. *Killing grounds.*—As heretofore, you should establish on each of the islands killing grounds that can be reached by the shortest possible drive, provided, however, that such killing grounds must

be at places sufficiently distant from the rookeries to prevent annoyance from the decaying carcases.

SEC. 13. *Acceptance of skins.*—In an opinion dated March 8, 1902, it was held by the Solicitor of the Treasury that the lessee has no right to reject any of the skins taken from the seals it has selected for killing. You will therefore see that all such skins, regardless of condition, are accepted.

SEC. 14. *Counting skins.*—All the sealskins should be carefully counted in the salt houses in the presence of the department agent and of the representative of the company, and a receipt, in duplicate, in the following form should be prepared and signed by said agent and by the representative of the company:

ST. ——— ISLAND,
———— ————, *190* .

We certify that there have been placed in the salt house, in our presence, ——— seal skins.

————— ————,
Agent United States Department of Commerce and Labor.
————— ————,
Agent North American Commercial Company.

SEC. 15. *Receipts for sealskins salted.*—The original of the above receipt should be retained by the department agent, and the duplicate given to the representative of the North American Commercial Co. At the close of the season, when the sealskins are again counted and shipped on board the company's steamer, the usual annual receipts should be signed by the captain of the steamer and the representative of the department.

SEC. 16. *Trading in skins.*—The North American Commercial Co. has the exclusive privilege under its contract of taking sealskins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and you should see that the company is protected in this right. Care should be taken to prevent the disposal of skins by the natives to any other company or to any person. All trading in sealskins by the natives is strictly prohibited, nor shall the natives be permitted to do any trading in fox skins.

SEC. 17. *Measures to prevent shipment of skins by natives.*—To avoid the possibility of sealskins or fox skins being surreptitiously shipped from the islands, you are directed to continue the practice of examining all goods to be shipped by the natives, including baggage and personal effects, and where barrels, casks, boxes, or other receptacles are used, they should be closed under your supervision, after an examination of their contents, before being placed in the warehouse. Any skins found concealed in packages to be shipped by the natives should be seized and held subject to instructions from the department.

SEC. 18. *Census of seal herd.*—You are expected to make a thorough examination into the condition of the seal herd during the coming season, and to make a careful count of the number of breeding seals, male and female, on the islands, and also a computation, as accurate as possible, of the number of seals not breeding, including idle bulls, half bulls, bachelors, and virgin females. A careful enumeration should also be made of the pups found dead at the close

of the season, and such information as can be had regarding the causes of death reported.

SEC. 19. *Sealskins to be weighed.*—You are instructed to have the skins of the seals taken by the lessee during the coming season carefully weighed and to keep a record of the weights for the information of the department. You should also weigh the skins of seals that are killed to supply food for the natives, and record the weights. The natives may be required to assist as far as practicable in the work of weighing.

SEC. 20. *Care of the natives.*—The care and welfare of the natives should receive your close attention, and you are directed to see that the lessee performs all of the obligations of its contract toward such natives. You should ascertain the prices charged at the company's stores, compare them with the prices at San Francisco, and report any instances where the natives are compelled to pay unfair prices. You should also inspect the articles supplied as to quality and quantity, and if they are in any manner deficient you should report the fact to the department.

SEC. 21. *Compensation to natives for taking sealskins.*—In view of the increase of the prices charged the natives on the seal islands for necessaries of life by the lessee, the latter has been informed that the compensation to be paid by the company for killing, salting, curing, bundling, and loading the sealskins on the company's steamers will be 75 cents for each skin instead of 50 cents a skin as heretofore. The increase of 25 cents per skin is designed to meet the increased cost of necessaries of life on the islands. You are directed to notify the department of any further increase in the prices of goods sold by the company to the natives. The money thus earned is to constitute a community fund for distribution among the natives according to their respective classes. At the close of the sealing season, after a conference with the native chiefs, you will make such division of the fund among the natives according to their classification as is deemed fair and just and submit a report of such division, showing the amount apportioned to each native participating in the fund. This report should be accompanied by an indorsement of approval from the native chiefs and a certificate from the company's agent that such funds have been credited to such natives on the books of the company.

SEC. 22. *Returns to natives under fox contract.*—The contract granting the North American Commercial Co. the right to propagate on the islands of St. Paul and St. George the fur-bearing animal known as the blue fox will expire on July 22, 1906. The company has made application to the department for a renewal of the contract and the matter is now under consideration. If a new contract is concluded, you will be advised in a later communication regarding its terms. Should you fail to receive notice of the execution of such a contract, you are directed to see that during the coming season no fox skins whatever are taken by the company.

In the absence of a contract with the company you will exercise your judgment as regards permitting any fox skins to be taken by the natives. If you are convinced that it will be advisable to allow the killing of a certain number of foxes, you may permit a reasonable quota to be taken under your direction, the skins to be delivered into your custody and to be retained by you awaiting instructions from the department as to the manner of their disposal. If skins are thus

taken, the question of applying the proceeds in whole or in part to the support of the natives will be given careful consideration.

SEC. 23. *Payment of natives' earnings.*—The amounts that are earned from the company by the natives for labor other than sealing and foxing are to be paid to them in cash, and you will instruct the company's representatives accordingly. The funds earned from sealing and foxing, however, are to be disbursed upon order, as heretofore. The payment to the natives of money from the appropriation for their maintenance, upon the orders of the Government agent, is strictly prohibited. Articles that do not properly come within the term "necessaries" should not be exposed for sale in the company's stores nor sold to the natives for the money they earn by labor.

SEC. 24. *Support of natives.*—Congress has been requested to appropriate the sum of $19,500 "to enable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to furnish food, fuel, and clothing to the native inhabitants on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska," during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907, and the greatest care and economy should be exercised in the expenditure of this appropriation. Articles of strict necessity only should be issued. No expensive dress goods, boots, or other articles are to be provided. Each of the natives should be restricted to one pair of dress shoes each year, and each of the women to one good dress. Ginghams, calicoes, muslins, and similar inexpensive dress goods may be issued in reasonable quantities.

The supply of fuel for the use of the natives is paid for from this appropriation, and the cost of such fuel should not be overlooked in determining how much of the appropriation is available for other purposes.

In the distribution of supplies no distinction is to be made between persons without means and those having small savings from previous years. The earnings for the current year should be expended for necessaries other than "food, fuel, and clothing."

You will continue the plan adopted under previous instructions of issuing orders upon the company for such supplies as are required by the native inhabitants. At the end of the season, as heretofore, you will submit to the department the stubs of the orders given, payable from the appropriation, for use in verifying the accounts of the company.

SEC. 25. *Coal supply.*—The North American Commercial Co. has agreed to furnish during the coming season for use on the islands 315 long tons of coal, at $20 per ton, including delivery on the beach—215 tons to be delivered on St. Paul Island and 100 tons on St. George Island. This coal, with the 80 tons additional the company is required to furnish under the terms of its contract, will make available for all purposes a supply of 395 tons, and in its distribution the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George are to be included.

Of the 315 tons purchased from the company you may make the following distribution:

	Tons.
St. Paul Island:	
For the Government house	15
For the use of the natives	200
St. George Island:	
For the Government house	15
For the use of the natives	85
Total	315

Of the 80 tons furnished by the company without charge under its contract, 50 tons may be distributed to the natives of St. Paul and 30 tons to the natives of St. George.

SEC. 26. *Dwellings for natives.*—The agreement of the company in its contract to furnish the native inhabitants of the islands a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings and to keep such dwellings in proper repair should be strictly enforced.

SEC. 27. *Schools for the natives.*—You will require the schools for the native children to be maintained from September 1 to May 1 and to be opened five days in each week, the school hours to be from 9 o'clock a. m. to 3 o'clock p. m., with an hour recess at noon and 15 minutes recess in the forenoon.

It will be your duty to see that the teachers appointed by the company are competent to teach the English language and that they faithfully perform this duty. None but the English language shall be taught in the schools.

If the parents of the children on the islands desire to send them to the Jessie Lee School at Unalaska, the department has no objection, provided no expenditure of public money is involved in their transportation to Unalaska or their maintenance and schooling while there. This course will also be permitted under the same conditions in the case of orphan children, for whom provision is now made by the company under its contract.

SEC. 28. *Widows, orphans, aged, and infirm.*—The company is required by its contract to provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands who are unable to provide for themselves, and you will see that this obligation is fully discharged.

Widows and orphans having small sums of money to their credit should not be compelled to spend them and become wholly dependent before they are allowed to draw supplies under this provision in the company's contract. Such sums, as well as similar accounts held by other natives, may be drawn upon from time to time, however, with the consent and under the direction of the Government agent, for such reasonable articles as will contribute to the comfort of the persons supplying the funds.

SEC. 29. *Natives to render service.*—In consideration of the support gratuitously afforded the natives by the Government, you are directed to utilize their services, when not required by the company, in repairing roads, guarding the rookeries, and performing such other duties as seem desirable. This instruction is not to be regarded, however, as relieving the company from its obligation to employ the natives, at a fair and just compensation, for all such work as they are fitted to perform.

SEC. 30. *Election of native chiefs.*—No interference should be permitted in the selection of their chiefs by the native inhabitants of the islands. If it should transpire, however, that persons manifestly unsuitable for the positions are chosen, it will be your duty to interpose in the interest of good government and require the selection of proper persons, but such action should be taken only in extreme cases.

SEC. 31. *Sale of intoxicants prohibited.*—The company agrees in its contract that it will not permit any of its agents to keep, sell, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors or opium on either

of the islands or the waters adjacent thereto to any of the native inhabitants, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as a medicine. This obligation is to be rigidly enforced.

SEC. 32. *Manufacture of intoxicants prohibited.*—The brewing or distilling of intoxicating beverages on the islands is prohibited. In the enforcement of this provision you are authorized to discontinue the sale from the company's stores of sugar, or other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants, to any person who violates this order, or who is found to be intoxicated. Should intoxication become so general among the people as to interfere with good government and jeopardize the peace, you are authorized to discontinue altogether the sale of sugar, and of other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants, for such length of time as may appear wise.

SEC. 33. *Removal for cause.*—Should natives or other persons become so unruly or immoral in conduct as to endanger the peace and good government of the people, they should be removed from the islands, and the Revenue-Cutter Service will be instructed to render such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose.

SEC. 34. *Landing on the islands restricted.*—No persons other than Government officers, representatives and employees of the North American Commercial Co., and duly accredited representatives of the Russian Church shall be allowed to land on the islands except by written authority from the department. The permission granted representatives of the Russian Church to visit the islands may be suspended, however, where its exercise is attempted by an improper person. Visitors to the islands should not be permitted to inspect the rookeries, except under your supervision.

SEC. 35. *Killing of sea lions to be limited.*—The preservation of the sea-lion rookeries on the islands is highly important. The killing of these animals should be limited to such number as is absolutely necessary in providing for the construction of bidarras or skin boats. Sea-lion pups should not be killed for any purpose.

SEC. 36. *Information regarding affairs on the islands.*—No information regarding the seals or as to any other matter pertaining to the seal islands is to be given out by you or by any of the assistant agents. All applications for such information should be referred to the department.

SEC. 37. *Conclusion.*—Should questions arise involving matters not covered by these instructions, it will be your duty to report the facts to the department and to await instructions, except in cases requiring immediate decision, when you will take such action as sound judgment directs.

The instructions embodied in this letter are to remain in force until they are superseded by later ones, and in the event of your failure to receive revised instructions for a subsequent season, the directions herein given are to be followed for such season as far as they are applicable.

Three additional copies of this letter are inclosed herewith, and you are directed to furnish one of these copies to each of the assistant agents for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, March 10, 1906.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries of Alaska,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: You are hereby directed to proceed to the seal islands of Alaska and to so arrange your departure as to arrive at San Francisco in time to take passage on the steamer of the North American Commercial Co. leaving that port on or about May 15 proximo. Agent Lembkey is also expected to take passage on the same steamer, and on your arrival at San Francisco you will report to him.

Respectfully,
V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, May 12, 1906.

SIR: You are hereby informed that the authority contained in that portion of section 8 of the instructions dated March 9, 1906, regulating the taking of seals on the Pribilof Islands, which provides that—

> Skins weighing less than 5 pounds shall not be shipped from the islands unless, in your judgment, the number thereof is so small as to justify the belief that they have been taken only through unavoidable accident, mistake, or error in judgment.

is hereby withdrawn.

In lieu thereof you are instructed to withhold permission for the shipment from the islands of all skins weighing less than 5 pounds and to retain the same on the islands, pending instructions from this department.

The North American Commercial Co., the lessee of the sealing right, will be informed of this action.

Respectfully,
V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

[Telegram.]

PORTLAND, OREG., *May 22, 1906.*

E. W. SIMS,
Solicitor, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.:

Arrived to-day; address, Oregon Hotel; vessel probably sails 25th.

LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Islands.

MAY 23, 1906—8.10 a. m.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 11, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival at St. George Island, Alaska, on the 8th instant, and on St. Paul Island on the 9th instant. The administrations, during the winter, of Assistant Agent Chichester on St. George Island, and of Agent Clark on St. Paul Island, were highly satisfactory, and both officers should be commended for the careful and able manner in which the interests of the Government were conserved on both islands.

The conditions found upon my arrival may be stated briefly as follows:

SEALS.

On St. George I found that the entire food quota for that island of 300 seals had been taken during the fall. No killing for food had been made on St. George Island this spring.

On St. Paul I found by the record that 1,701 skins were taken for food by the Government agent since the close of the last sealing season, including the 281 skins left on hand from the previous season.

Counts of bulls.—Because of the fact that the vessel spent only one day at St. George, it was not possible for me to inspect, in that limited time, all the rookeries on that island. In the forenoon, however, in company with Mr. Marsh of the Bureau of Fisheries, I made a count of North rookery, and in the afternoon I made a count of East rookery, Little East, and East Reef. A count of Staraya Artel in the morning was not feasible, as a band of bachelors was hauled there, from which a drive was contemplated to be made immediately after the departure of the vessel. Our visit to that rookery would have driven these young males into the water. The counts, made as above stated, compared with those made at the same time the preceding year, follow:

Rookeries.	1906	1905	Per cent decrease.
North	64	94	32
East	33	46	28
East Reef	11	14	21
Little East	8	15	46

These counts indicate strongly that, at the height of the season approaching, namely, on or about July 15, a decrease in adult male seal life will be developed even larger in extent than that noted in previous years. While climatic conditions, unascertained at present, may have prevented bulls from arriving this spring as fast as they did in 1905, it is very probable that the decrease in bulls, apparent at this time, will be equally noticeable at the height of the season.

On St. Paul the following counts were made since our arrival by Mr. Judge, assisted by Mr. Marsh, with the counts made on the same date in 1905 inserted for purposes of comparison:

Rookeries.	1906	1905	Per cent decrease.
Gorbatch Cliffs	7	9	22
Gorbatch	79	111	29
Ardiguen	10	8	10
Ketovi	33	46	28
Amphitheater	6	7	14
Lukanin	35	40	12
Lagoon	19	22	13
Tolstoi Cliffs	26	27	3
Tolstoi	86	104	17
Zapadni	108	158	31
Little Zapadni	64	63	1
Zapadni Reef	14	28	50
Little Polovina	8	11	27
Polovina Cliff	23	32	25
Polovina	43	49	12

These counts, covering all the rookeries on this island with the exception of Northeast Point and Sea Lion Rock, would demonstrate that a decrease similar to that found on St. George had occurred on St. Paul. No idea of the number of the herd of females can be obtained, as but three cows are reported at this time to have arrived on the islands. The influx of breeding females, now just beginning, will continue until, approximately, the 15th of July.

Number of young bulls.—The most significant fact developed by our first inspection of the rookeries is that the greater proportion of the bulls present this year are young animals between the ages of 7 and 9 years. On North rookery, St. George, only two old bulls were seen, the marks of old age—especially their sluggishness and broken-down canines—placing them in the class of aged bulls. All the others were prime, but the greatest number were, as stated, young bulls arriving on the rookeries for the first time as full-fledged harem masters.

On North rookery, St. George, fully 50 per cent of the bulls were of this class. On East rookery the opportunity for close inspection was not as ample, but many of this class were observed. On Gorbatch, St. Paul, a careful count based upon a close and painstaking inspection of each bull present developed the fact that 54 out of 77 bulls found were 7 or 8 year olds. Mr. Judge reports the same condition to exist on the other rookeries visited.

It is hardly possible to believe that the rookeries are receiving this year the first fruits of the reservation of males in 1904, as the 3-year-olds of that year are but 5-year-olds to-day, and the 2-year-olds then are now only 4-year-olds. If any 4-year-olds were branded in 1904, they could to-day be only 6-year-olds and, consequently, not fully developed bulls.

Whatever may be the cause of the appearance of these young bulls, their presence is doubly emphasized by the absence of the old bulls, which affords an opportunity for closer scrutiny.

FOXES.

On St. George, during the past winter, 1,044 foxes were trapped, of which 463 were killed and 581 released for breeders. Those killed, as above stated, together with foxes found dead outside the trap, made a total of 468 blue skins and 12 white skins offered to the agent of the lessee. Of these the agent accepted 456 blues and 11 whites, and

rejected as defective and undesirable 12 blues and 1 white. This trapping shows an increase over the preceding year of 278 foxes handled and 191 killed.

On St. Paul no trapping of foxes was done during the past winter. The number of foxes on the island, however, is reported to have increased greatly during the winter, and numbers of foxes were seen around the village—a most unusual sight in recent years. There is every reason to believe that the fox herd on St. Paul, so that a small trapping in the near future is not an impossibility.

NATIVES.

The general health of the natives during the past winter has been good. Since July 1, 1905, there have been 5 deaths and 9 births on St. Paul and 2 deaths and 6 births on St. George, a net increase in the population of 8.

Reports will be made as often during the summer as the mail facilities will permit.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

JULY 12, 1906.

SIR: I am informed that Mr. Chichester, one of the agents of the seal islands, is suffering from an eye trouble requiring an operation which can not be properly performed on the island. This matter may already have been brought to your attention, but if not, will you, please look into it, and, if the facts are as reported, direct Mr. Chichester to return to Washington, and make such reassignment of the officers for the coming winter at the islands as you may deem advisable.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

Mr. EDWIN W. SIMS,
Solicitor, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Seal Fisheries, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

(Per steamer *Homer*, North American Commercial Co., from Portland, Oreg.)

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, July 13, 1906.

Mr. EDWIN W. SIMS, or
Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Seal Fisheries, Pribilof Islands, Alaska,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Steamer "Homer," Portland, Oreg.

Am informed that it is necessary for Chichester to have operation performed on his eyes. If so, Lembkey will have to stay at islands.

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

JULY 13, 1906.

SIR: I inclose herewith for your information and guidance copy of letter this day sent to Mr. Sims, solicitor of the department.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Special Agent, Seal Fisheries,
Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 25, 1906.*

Hon. EDWIN W. SIMS,
Office of Solicitor, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith the joint affidavit of three sealers, claiming to have been lost from the Japanese schooner *Hoam Maru,* who came ashore yesterday under a flag of truce.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Seal Fisheries.

[Affidavit.]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DISTRICT OF ALASKA, *Island of St. Paul, ss:*

Before me personally appeared Alfred Edward Fenwick, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a native of Calcutta, a British subject, and 24 years old; that he speaks English, Japanese, and his native language; that he attended an English school for 14 years; that he has been engaged in pelagic sealing on different vessels for the past three years; and that his occupation at present is that of "boat steerer" on the Japanese sealing schooner *Hoam Maru.*

Before me also appeared Thamise Thamitaru, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a native of Japan and a Japanese subject, 30 years old; that he reads and writes the Japanese language; that he attended a Japanese school four years; that he has only a limited knowledge of the English language; that he has been engaged in pelagic sealing for the past three years; and that his present occupation is that of "hunter" on the Japanese sealing schooner *Hoam Maru.*

Before me also appeared Matchimato Sainta, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is 46 years old, a native of Japan, and a Japanese subject; that he has no knowledge of the English language; that he never went to school, but is able to write his name in Japanese; that he has been engaged in pelagic sealing the past two years; and that his present occupation is that of "boat puller" on the Japanese sealing schooner *Hoam Maru.*

These affiants say that their vessel, the *Hoam Maru,* is of sixty-odd tons burden; that her home port is Tokyo; that her captain's name is Matchimura Uaichie; that she is owned by a number of individuals, most of whom reside in Yokohama; that her present business is that

of hunting fur seals on the ocean; that for this purpose she carries a total of 27 men all told; that she also carries 8 boats and 16 shotguns; that she carries no rifles or spears or any other paraphernalia for the killing of seals; that when actually hunting each boat carries three men and two shotguns; and that the shells used are loaded with buckshot; that the vessel also carries a small cast-iron cannon, which is used for signaling—that is, to call the boats in at night or advise the boats where the vessel lies in thick weather.

Affiants further say that the *Hoam Maru* sailed from Hokodata June 8, 1906; that they lowered no boats until August 5, when it was supposed on board that they were about 100 miles off the Pribilof Islands; that it was understood by all on board that the time of sailing and afterwards as well that they were to do no sealing within 50 miles of the Pribilof Islands. Affiants further say that when they left the vessel 66 skins had been secured; that it is impossible to capture all the seals killed by them; that three or four out of every ten killed sink before the boat reaches them; that some are wounded and swim away without their being able to get a second shot.

Affiants further say that seven or eight out of every ten secured by them are females in milk; that a record is kept of the skins taken by the respective boats; that the men in the successful boats are paid at the rate of 12 cents American money for each pelt taken; and that in addition they receive a monthly wage of $5 per month.

Affiants further say that they left their ship five days ago, and that the four days prior to their arrival on this island last evening were spent at sea in the open boat in which they came ashore; that during this four-day interval they saw no vessel of any description; that their provisions were exhausted the second day out; that after that they lived on the flesh of birds and seals, which they shot; and that their supply of water was exhausted the third day.

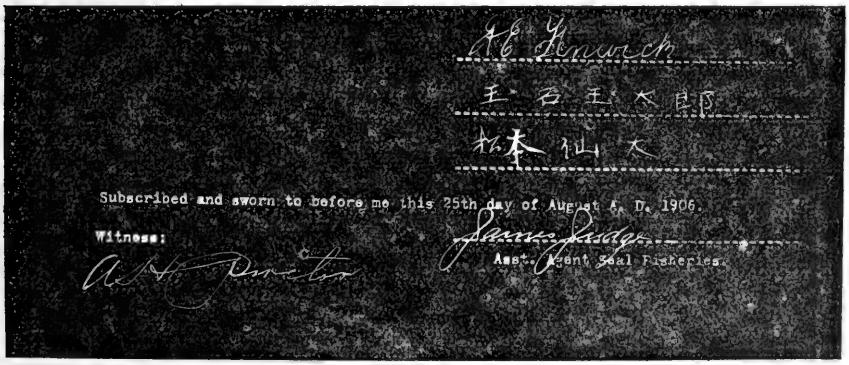
Affiants further say that the day they left the vessel it was windy until noon; that in consequence thereof the boats were not lowered until that hour; that they hunted until dark that evening, but without success; that they then attempted to find their ship, but were unable to do so; that they drifted back and forth all night; that the second day, which was foggy, they pulled for seven hours to the eastward, then drifted; that the second night they took turns at sleeping, but it was cold and they got but little rest; that on the third day, which was clear, they pulled east-northeast for eight hours, then drifted; that during the course of the third day they killed two seals, the skins of which were in their boat on arrival on this island; and that their experience that night was a repetition of the preceding night.

Affiants further say that about 6 o'clock of the morning of the fourth day they sighted this island; that at first they were not sure whether it was land or a cloud on the horizon; that as soon as they were sure that what they saw was land they hoisted a white flag at the masthead; that the jib was used for this purpose, it being the only suitable thing available; that they then sailed and pulled to the eastward until they got in; that the weather was clear and the wind northwest. Affiants further say that they landed on the north side of the island; that seeing no sign of a habitation they left at once and pulled and sailed around the west end of the island; that they were close enough in to West Point to see some bull seals; that upon observing those seals they pushed out farther to sea; that they did

this because they thought they were approaching a seal rookery, and they were well aware of the fact that the rookeries are guarded, and they were liable to be fired on; that they did not expect the guard to fire on a flag of truce, but they were afraid the guard would be unable to distinguish between flag and sail, as the latter was up and the color of both was the same; that a mistake might easily occur; and besides that they wanted guards and everyone else to understand that they had no intention of going ashore to club seals. Affiants further say that after getting well out from West Point they paralleled the shore line and came on; that when they got abreast Zapadni Point they observed the guard, and knew their flag of truce had been seen, as the guard signaled them to come in; that they would have accepted this invitation and gone in, had they not at about this time observed the flagstaff and some people on Village Hill, and concluded that was the better place to effect a landing.

Affiants further say that there are 27 Japanese schooners in Bering Sea; that it is a matter of general knowledge among the sealers that the rookeries on both the Commander and Pribilof islands are guarded by armed men, and that it is a matter of life and death for anyone to venture ashore on either of those islands for the purpose of killing seals. Affiants say that all the schooners and everybody connected with pelagic sealing are well aware of reception awaiting prospective raiders of the seal rookeries.

Affiants further say that they are thankful for the hospitality afforded them on this island; that they are peaceable and law-abiding, and that they will cheerfully perform any labor assigned them in order to compensate for their board and lodging while on the island.



[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, September 5, 1906.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Hotel Crellin, Oakland, Cal.

Department grants 10 days leave of absence. Trip from Oakland to Seattle at your own expense. Traveling expenses and subsistence

from San Francisco to Washington authorized, by the shortest and most direct route.

(Signed) LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Acting Secretary.

(Charge Department of Commerce and Labor appropriation for "Contingent expenses, 1906.")

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, September 10, 1906.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Fur-Seal Fisheries,
Rainier Grand Hotel, Seattle, Wash.

Stop off at Chicago on way to Washington for consultation with Sims. Wire department upon receipt of this.

(Signed) LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Acting Secretary.

(Charge Department of Commerce and Labor appropriation for "Contingent expenses, 1906.")

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *September 10, 1906.*

DEAR MR. LEMBKEY: The *Perry* came in yesterday for our mail, and the captain kindly sent me the inclosed list of sealing schooners he had boarded. You will notice this last cruise amounted to more than all the former cruises put together.

Mr. Fisher came ashore, and I told him the *Too Maru No. 2* was the vessel that raided Northeast Point, and should be seized. While he did not dispute it or intimate that I was mistaken, he said it was his impression that all the schooners that had attempted raiding had already left the sea.

I also told him that we had no facilities for supplying vessels with water, but that even if we had and were sordid enough to supply sealing schooners, we would render ourselves liable to punishment under the law for so doing.

I would suggest that copies of the act of December 29, 1897, be furnished the office of the Revenue-Cutter Service, for the use of its officers who may be detailed for the purpose of patroling Bering Sea.

Even if there was no law, the idea that these —— schooners should have the assurance of calling here for water, or anything else that would enable them to continue their slaughter of our seals, is preposterous; and this they should be told by the boarding officer at the time of boarding, or whenever the subject happens to be mentioned. With all the brazen effrontery of the Canadians during their entire sealing history, nothing so cold-blooded as this was ever contemplated by them, even when there was no law upon the subject. The cutter people, however, did not seem to think there was anything incongruous in the schooners' coming in, provided they came in "properly and under a flag of truce."

I suppose that if the *Toba Maru* comes in, and is absolutely destitute of water, we will have to give her a small supply, but unless destitute, not a drop does she get.

Either Mr. Fisher or the ship's surgeon who accompanied him said that from information gleaned aboard the schooners it developed that a United States consul in Japan, a man named King, is the owner of three of the sealing schooners, or rather that his wife, a Japanese woman, is the owner. This, if true, places both King and his wife in an unenviable light.

This is the last trip of the *Perry* for the season.

Sincerely, yours,

JAMES JUDGE.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, October 15, 1906.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following summarized report of affairs on the seal islands of Alaska during the season of 1906, just closed:

Number of seals killed.—There were killed on St. Paul Island during the period from August 1, 1905, to July 31, 1906, 12,643 seals, including the skins of 281 left on hand from the previous season, and on St. George, 2,000. From this number killed there were retained by the Government agents 83 small and 23 large skins on St. Paul and 55 small and 5 large on St. George, a total for both islands of 166, as having been taken contrary to the provisions of the current regulations which forbid the killing of seals having skins weighing less than 5 pounds or more than 8½ pounds. These ineligible skins are held on the islands awaiting instructions from the department regarding their final disposition.

The lessee company, therefore, was able to take only 14,643 skins toward their maximum allowed quota of 15,000.

Reservations of bachelors.—In accordance with the regulations of the department which require the marking of 2,000 two and three year old males, in the proportion of 1,000 of each class, of which 1,600 were to be selected on St. Paul and 400 on St. George, in such manner as to render them exempt from slaughter and allow them to mature as breeding bulls, I have to report that the following number of seals were so marked:

	2-year-olds.	3-year-olds.	4-year-olds.
St. Paul	869	880	31
St. George	200	200	58
Total	1,069	1,080	89

These seals were marked by having a portion of the hair and fur from the head clipped off with sheep shears, making thus a mark which was readily apparent to the clubbers.

Percentage of seals killed.—On St. Paul during the past summer out of a total of 18,411 animals appearing in the drives, there were killed

10,942, or 59 per cent. On St. George, of 3,260 animals driven, 1,685, or 51 per cent, were killed.

Counts of bulls.—On St. Paul counts of breeding bulls at the height of the season showed 1,244 bulls, 1,205 harems, 39 idle bulls, and 41 young bulls present on the rookeries, but not holding their positions when approached, the latter being termed by us "quitters" and not included in the total of regular breeding bulls. At the height of the season of 1905 there were 1,574 bulls, 1,455 harems, 75 idle bulls, and 44 "quitters." The counts of this season show a decrease during the year of 330 bulls, or 21 per cent, a decrease in harems of 250 and in idle bulls of 36.

On St. George the counts last summer showed 204 bulls, 196 harems, 8 idle, and 13 "quitters" present at the height of the season. In 1905 similar counts disclosed the presence of 280 bulls, 258 harems, and 22 idle bulls, a decrease in one year on that island of 76 bulls, or 27 per cent, toegther with a decrease in harems or seal families of 62.

Counts of pups.—On St. George an actual count was made of all pups born on the island last summer, which showed 11,233 live and 224 dead pups. In 1905, 12,699 live and 253 dead pups were counted, from which it is apparent that a decrease on that island has occurred in pups born during the year's interval of 11 per cent.

On St. Paul the usual counts were made during the summer until July 16, when that island was surrounded by Japanese pelagic sealing schooners, killing seals close to shore. In view of their continued presence and the fact that the counting of the rookeries at this period of the season would result in driving off into the water numbers of breeding cows to run the gauntlet of the schooners' guns, further counts were discontinued from that date, and the annual enumeration of pups was not made on that island.

The counts of cows, however, have, previous to the arrival of the Japanese, showed that a decrease as great as that disclosed by the count of pups on St. George had occurred up to that time among the herd of breeding cows on St. Paul. Since that time the great slaughter of breeding seals during the months of July, August, and September, by the pelagic fleets of both Japan and Great Britain, has resulted in a loss of life beyond anything that the herd has suffered for years past. The exact measure of this loss can not be known until next spring, when the reports of the agents now on the islands will have been received. Conservative estimates, however, indicate that the herd which, in 1905, consisted of some 223,000 animals of all classes, now numbers probably not more than 185,000.

Pelagic sealing.—This unusual decrease, as already stated, has been caused by the great activity among pelagic sealers during the past summer in the immediate vicinity of the islands, and especially around St. Paul. This island, where four-fifths of the Pribilof herd has its habitat, was surrounded in July last by a fleet of 13 or more Japanese sealing schooners, the crews of which not only killed seals in the water thereafter in the immediate vicinity of the island, but carried on their sealing operations in many instances within the 3-mile limit, culminating in a raid on the breeding rookeries themselves, in which the crews of four vessels acted in concert.

The latter incident is briefly stated as follows:

On July 16 a boat's crew of six Japanese landed on Northeast Point rookery, St. Paul Island, armed with a full equipment of sealing

paraphernalia, and were arrested by the agents of this department and the native guard before the marauders were able to kill any seals.

On the morning of July 17 a boat's crew of three Japanese, armed with shotguns, attempting to land on the same rookery, were arrested by the native guard, and, when they attempted to escape, were fired upon, two of the boat's occupants being killed and the third wounded.

On the evening of the same day, under cover of a dense fog, a Japanese schooner anchored within 300 yards of the same rookery, and, landing its crew in small boats, succeeded in killing about 185 breeding seals, all but two of which were females in milk, and in securing the skins of about 120. Upon discovery by the agents and the native guard, the marauders attempted to escape with their plunder, and, refusing to halt and submit to arrest, were fired upon by the native guard, and one boat captured, containing six Japanese, one of whom was dead and one wounded. The body of another floated in the water, and was not recovered by the boats, while the body of a third is believed to have been thrown overboard from the schooner upon the return of the boats. In this engagement the agents and the native guard were subjected to fire from the deck of the schooner, without, however, any casualty. Because of lack of means, it was not possible to capture the schooner nor to retake the sealskins already removed from the island.

Simultaneously with this, on July 17, an attempt to land under cover of the fog was made on Zapadni rookery, 14 miles away from Northeast Point, by three boats containing 18 men from another schooner. Upon discovery, the native guard, which consisted of two men, at once opened fire and continued firing until the boats retreated and were lost in the fog. It is not known whether any casualties occurred.

On July 16, the day previous, a schooner was observed close to Otter Island, which is 8 miles from St. Paul and uninhabited. On August 8 this island was again visited by a schooner, and three boats' crews were seen to land there.

While no further attempt was made to land on St. Paul Island, sealing schooners were seen almost daily off the island thereafter, sometimes close to shore. On August 1, 2, and 3, during a dense fog, shotgun firing from small boats was heard continuously, together with the firing of cannon, used probably for signaling. This firing of shotguns and cannon resulted in great disturbance of the rookeries, even if the seals actually killed by the poachers were not taken into account. An occasional lifting of the fog would disclose the presence of both schooners and small boats close to shore. On August 23, seven schooners were visible at one time from St. Paul Island. From their tactics, it would appear that the schooners took advantage of every foggy day to approach quite close to the island, while in clear weather they laid off outside the territorial limit.

Aside from the lawless and high-handed character of the raids made upon the breeding rookeries themselves, which involved the essence of piracy if they did not come within the exact legal definition of that crime, the continued killing of breeding seals around this island during the summer, within a few miles at least of where they have their young, has caused an immense loss of seal life. Falling, as it does, upon a herd already depleted to a minimum, there is little

question that in a comparatively short time such reckless slaughter will accomplish the commercial extinction of the species.

The unexpected loss of so many breeding seals from the herd this summer through pelagic sealing shows plainly the necessity for speedy action on the part of this Government if it would preserve from extinction this valuable and interesting species. Beyond the commercial aspect of the situation, there is the further one of preserving from ruthless extermination this useful and interesting inhabitant of the sea, which, unless rescued through the efforts of this Government, will soon be numbered with the buffalo and other practically extinct species. This would be a deplorable loss to the industrial world, considering the great number of people supported by the sealing business in its various phases with the herd maintained at its best. But, if viewed from the standpoint of humanity, every feature of this brutal slaughter of mother seals lying beside their nursing young—thereby subjecting the latter to lingering death by starvation—is repulsive to generous sentiment.

I shall submit a detailed report to the department covering the season's work as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, December 6, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: Complying with your verbal request, I have the honor to submit the following data embodying information concerning the present condition of the Pribilof Islands seal herd; the changes which have taken place therein since the season of 1898; the Canadian sealing industry, together with such other information as I may have touching the fur-seal question, for use of the honorable the Secretary of State.

Statistics of pelagic seal catch.—Attached hereto, marked "Table 1," is a summary of the pelagic catch of the Canadian sealing fleet, compiled from the official returns of the British Government, from 1898 to 1905, both inclusive. This table is designed to bring down to date the statistical table of the pelagic catch, found on pages 26 and 27 of the pamphlet Statistical Tables, Fur-Seal Catch, Season of 1897, a copy of which is inclosed.

Attached also, marked "Table 2," will be found a statement of the catch of the Japanese pelagic sealing fleet from 1896 to 1905, both inclusive, compiled from reports received from the United States consuls in Japan. The latter table is made as full as the information in the consuls' reports will warrant.

From evidence adduced before the Tribunal of Arbitration at Paris it would appear that pelagic sealing was nominal from 1868 to 1880. From 1881, however, when 10,382 skins were taken from the Pribilof herd by pelagic sealers, the increase in their catch was constant until

1894, when 141,143 skins were taken from the Pribilof and Commander herds, of which 61,838 were from the Pribilofs. Since 1894 the pelagic catch has steadily decreased because of scarcity of seals. During last season (1905) only 15,000 skins, approximately, were taken by the Canadian fleet from both the Commander and Pribilof herds. The Japanese fleet in 1905 took only 399 seals from the Pribilof herd.

The increase in pelagic sealing has had direct relation to the diminution of seals on the rookeries, and the present attenuated condition of the herd is due solely to the killing of females at sea. Land killing of surplus immature males has had no effect whatever on the decrease.

Revenue from sealskins.—The revenue which the Government has received from the taking of sealskins on the Pribilof Islands from 1870 to 1905 is $8,864,466.84, including $30,529.17 received from miscellaneous sources. Contrasted with this is the amount to date expended for maintaining agents on the islands and for supporting the native inhabitants of the same, namely, $572,066.38. Under the present contract with the North American Commercial Co. the Government receives $10.22½ for each sealskin taken and shipped from the islands.

Decrease in seal life.—During the period from 1880 to 1885 seal life on the Pribilofs was at its height, and consisted of a magnificent mass of wild animals. Although practically innumerable, estimates fix the numbers of individuals at from 4,500,000 to 2,000,000. From this mass 100,000 three and four year old bachelors (immature males) were taken annually. More could have been taken if desired.

Since about the year 1885 a decrease, attributable to pelagic sealing, began to be visible on the rookeries, and was plainly apparent in 1890. The last quota (1889) of the Alaska Commercial Co., the former lessee of the sealing right, was secured with difficulty and only by taking smaller seals than usual.

The North American Commercial Co. began its 20-year lease in 1890, and in that year could take but 20,995 skins. Since that date, as shown by the following table, their catch has been but a small portion of that secured each year by the former lessee:

Years.	Skins shipped as quota.	Years.	Skins shipped as quota.
1890	20,995	1898	18,032
1891	13,482	1899	16,812
1892	7,549	1900	22,470
1893	7,500	1901	22,672
1894	16,031	1902	22,386
1895	15,000	1903	19,292
1896	30,000	1904	13,128
1897	20,885	1905	13,368

Decrease as shown by counts.—While it was plain since 1885 that seal life was diminishing, no exact counts of seals were made on the rookeries until 1896, when that work was inaugurated by the Jordan Commission. Their census, involving actual counts of portions of the rookeries and estimates as to the whole number, based on these counts, showed 4,932 bulls with harems and 157,405 breeding cows. The commission's census for 1897, obtained in the same manner, showed 4,418 bulls and 129,216 cows to be present, indicating a decrease during the year of 514 bulls and 28,189 cows.

The census of seal life in 1898 was made by C. H. Townsend, of the Fish Commission. The exact figures of this census are not at hand, but it is stated that a decrease of over 20 per cent occurred in this year.

The censuses of breeding cows and bulls for the years 1899 to 1904 are included in a tabulated statement prepared by this department and forwarded to the State Department in a letter dated January 14, 1905. A summary of this statement is given, as follows:

Years.	Bulls.	Cows.	Years.	Bulls.	Cows.
1899	4,573	89,261	1902	2,837	94,882
1900	4,310	93,132	1903	2,343	97,296
1901	3,797	90,236	1904	2,102	87,585

To which may be added the census of bulls and breeding cows, taken from my report for 1905, as follows: Bulls, 1,758; cows, 78,836.

It can be seen thus that the seal herd has been reduced from 4,573 breeding bulls and 89,261 breeding cows in 1899 to 1,758 breeding bulls and 78,836 breeding cows in 1905.

My report for 1905 estimates the total number of individuals in the herd at the close of the season of 1905 to be 223,009, made up of the following factors:

Bulls with harems	1,758
Adult idle bulls	141
Half bulls	1,539
Three-year-old bachelors	1,980
Two-year-old bachelors	7,200
Yearling bachelors	18,896
Breeding cows	78,836
Two-year-old cows	14,927
Yearling cows	18,896
Newborn pups	78,836
Total	223,009

Cause of decrease in bulls.—The notable decrease in breeding bulls occurring since 1898 has been ascribed to the close killing of bachelors on the islands.

This decrease in bulls, however, has had no effect in lessening the producing capacity of the herd, as the species is highly polygamous, and one bull can impregnate an indefinite number of cows. In 1896–97, with thousands of idle bulls present that were not able to procure cows, the ratio of active bulls to breeding cows was ascertained to be 1 to 30, i. e., on the average each active bull had 30 cows in his harem. At all times during these years there has been present a supply of idle bulls, showing that more than enough males were present than were required to serve the females.

Unless it can be shown that an insufficiency of male breeders occurred (which has not been the case at any time in the history of the islands), no deleterious result from the reduction of male life can be proven. As the sexes are born in equal numbers, it must follow that, in nature, a large surplus of males must occur. This mass of surplus bulls is an injury to the herd. The reduction of this surplus is a positive benefit, as stated by all scientists. The active bulls at present on the islands are ample to serve the purposes of breeders. To guard against any future contingency, however, a reservation from killing of 2,000 choice young male seals for breeders has been

made during the years 1904 and 1905 and will be continued. This action, it is believed, will check further decreases in breeding bulls after the year 1907.

Decrease in breeding cows.—The decrease in breeding cows is due directly to pelagic sealing. Unlike bulls, this decrease has a direct effect upon the future of the herd. The fur-seal cow bears its first young at the age of 3 years, and annually thereafter until death brings forth one pup. The killing of these females on land is forbidden. When in the water all females above the age of 2 years are pregnant. Their destruction in the water destroys the life in utero, as well as that of the mother. In addition, those females in Bering Sea after August 1, above the age of 3 years, in addition to being pregnant, have nursing pups on shore, which die of starvation upon the death of the mothers. The death of a female above the age of 2 years, therefore, entails the death of two lives at least and in certain cases of three lives. Then, again, not over 50 per cent of seals shot at sea are recoverable, as the body sinks and is lost before the boat can approach.

The bulk of the pelagic catch is females, as they preponderate in numbers and also are less able to escape when gravid. Then, again, when leaving the rookeries to obtain food in the sea, they sleep on the water during the process of digestion and thereby become an easy prey.

Effective breeding nucleus remains.—It can be seen from the foregoing that the herd which numbered approximately 2,000,000 animals in 1885 has been reduced, through pelagic sealing, to approximately 225,000 animals in 1905. Although this reduction has seriously affected the income both of the lessee of the sealing right and the Government, there still remains a splendid breeding nucleus, which requires only a few years of rest from killing to so increase in numbers as to insure a notable revenue to the Government.

That this increase will occur from a cessation of killing is shown by the history of the seal islands near Cape Horn. These islands, which are not under Government supervision, have repeatedly been visited by the crews of vessels and every vestige of seal life wiped out; yet, after the lapse of a dozen years or so, thriving rookeries were found there.

So, also, the seal life formerly found on the Galapagos Islands was long thought to be extinct through indiscriminate killing. It was a matter of surprise, therefore, that in 1897 a schooner arrived in San Francisco with 224 sealskins taken there. This shows that the few that had escaped slaughter on these islands had reestablished themselves on the raided rookeries and that had they had proper protection a thriving industry could have been established there.

Pelagic sealing industry.—The Canadian sealing fleet, with the exception possibly of several independent schooners, is owned by a stock company trading under the name of the Victoria Sealing Co. (Ltd.).

This company is capitalized at $500,000, divided into 40,000 shares at $12.50 each par. Of these, 33,479 shares have been issued at par, making the total par value of stock issued $418,487.50.

According to the company's statement for the year ended November 1, 1904, their fleet is composed of 25 vessels. These vessels took in 1904, 10,411 skins in the North Pacific and Bering Sea and

1,794 skins at Cape Horn. Nineteen vessels made catches, and two of these were wrecked.

The company declared a dividend in 1904 of 50 cents a share because of the unexpected catch of seals at Cape Horn. This dividend, so far as known, is the first one issued. At the time it was made the company had an overdraft on the bank of British North America of $69,526.82. Their stock was offered for sale in San Francisco in 1904 at $6 a share, and at Victoria, as reported by the consul (Jan. 6, 1905) at $2.50 per share. The vessels comprising the fleet are said to be old hulks.

As to the approximate amount which will be required to compensate the Canadians in case a discontinuance of pelagic sealing on their part should be required, I learned the following in 1903 from confidential sources:

The person alleged to be the principal owner of shares in the sealing company is R. P. Rithet, of San Francisco. About May or June, 1903, when it was thought the High Joint Commission would convene the following winter to consider the Bering Sea question, Mr. Rithet was approached by a gentleman, who called Mr. Rithet's attention to the depletion of the seal herd and the probable early collapse of the company. It was suggested to Mr. Rithet that it would be better for the company to take what it could get from this Government for its sealing interests, in consideration of a cessation of pelagic sealing, rather than to have these interests on its hands a dead loss.

Mr. Rithet was favorably impressed with the proposition, and the following plan was suggested to him as the best means of accomplishing the required end:

1. Mr. Rithet, or some other person in the confidence of the Canadian Government, was to obtain an option on the shares of the sealing company.

2. After obtaining this option, the holder thereof (being practically the sole owner of the Canadian sealing industry), was to go before the Canadian Government, assuming the position that the depletion of the seal herd had rendered pelagic sealing unprofitable; that its continued decrease would of itself soon put the Canadian sealers out of business; that the sealing vessels were fast deteriorating; and that it was obviously better to sell out for a good round sum than to permit the business to die of its own accord; that, as the sole owner of the industry, he had the right to ask his Government to cooperate to effect a sale of the company's holdings to the United States Government.

3. The holder of this option was to induce the Canadian Government, in consideration of the sale of the stock, (*a*) to abandon sealing; (*b*) to pass laws prohibiting British subjects and vessels from engaging in that pursuit; and (*c*) to bind the matter by treaty between Great Britain and the United States.

The question of price was then considered, the gentleman asserting that $5 a share would be ample payment, but Mr. Rithet contending that $5 was too little; he thought, however, that the deal might be put through on a basis of $7.50 per share. At $7.50 per share it would require $251,092.50 to purchase the entire issued stock.

Mr. Rithet told his visitor he would give the matter his attention and would soon leave for Victoria, where he would endeavor to tie up by option as much of the stock as he could.

Nothing further is known by me as to Mr. Rithet's subsequent action in the matter.

This information is not given for the purpose of suggesting a plan of action, but to give a reliable estimate of the value placed on this stock by its principal owner.

I inclose also a copy of the contract between the Government and the North American Commercial Co., granting to the latter the right to take sealskins on the Pribilof Islands for a period of 20 years from 1890.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands.

TABLE 1.—*Catch of British Columbian sealing fleet, from 1898 to 1905.*

[Based on official returns from British Government.]

Years.	Northwest coast.				Bering Sea.			Total award area.	Russian or Copper Islands.			Japan coast.			Grand total.
	Males.	Females.	Indian catch.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1898[1]	4,093	5,553	1,100	11,199	7,595	9,348	16,943	28,142	20	30	50	201	159	360	28,552
1899	5,384	5,087	892	11,363	9,567	13,715	23,282	34,645	210	489	699	.....	.....	.....	[2]35,576
1900	7,629	8,809	1,364	17,802	7,175	10,338	17,513	35,315	134	74	208	.....	.....	.....	25,523
1901	3,379	3,886	1,268	8,533	4,814	5,548	10,362	18,895	1,472	1,925	3,397	1,310	820	2,130	24,422
1902	2,612	2,324	1,343	6,279	2,470	2,723	5,193	11,472	817	523	1,340	1,530	1,801	3,331	16,143
1903	2,163	1,702	765	4,630	3,658	4,503	8,161	12,791	1,072	838	1,910	.....	.....	.....	14,701
1904	[3]1,567	1,551	1,501	4,685	3,698	4,539	8,237	12,922	714	1,076	1,790	.....	.....	.....	14,712
1905	[4]1,267	1,512	792	3,571	4,352	4,282	8,634	12,205	857	736	1,972	.....	.....	.....	14,177

[1] Includes 453 skins taken on northwest coast by a vessel lost at sea.
[2] Includes 232 skins taken on Japan coast, sex of which is not known.
[3] Includes 66 skins taken on northwest coast by Mexican schooner Carmencita (Acapulca) in 1905.
[4] Includes 379 skins taken from Russian Copper Islands by Mexican schooner Acapulca.
In reality, this vessel was seen —— summer off St. Paul Island, and her skins probably [original copy mutilated; balance of sentence illegible].

TABLE 2.—*Catch of Japanese pelagic sealing fleet, from 1896 to 1905.*

[Taken from reports of consuls.]

Years.	Japan Sea.	Japan coast.	Robben Island.	Commander Islands.	Bering Sea.	Northwest coast.	Total.
1896	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,319
1897	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,616
1898	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,757
1899	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,518
1900	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,533
1901	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,045
1902	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,780
1903	5,212	449	.....	3,495	2,222	.....	11,378
1904	5,714	1,012	4,654	5,095	349	.....	16,824
1905	.....	3,101	.....	7,906	.....	399	11,406

TABLE 1.—*Catch of British Columbian sealing fleet, from 1898 to 1905.*

[Based on official returns from British Government.]

Years.	Northwest coast.				Bering Sea.			Total award area.	Russian or Copper Islands.			Japan coast.			Grand total.
	Males.	Females.	Indian catch.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1898[1]	4,093	5,553	1,100	11,199	7,595	9,348	16,943	28,142	20	30	50	201	159	360	28,552
1899	5,384	5,087	892	11,363	9,567	13,715	23,282	34,645	210	489	699	.....	.....	.....	[2]35,576
1900	7,629	8,809	1,364	17,802	7,175	10,338	17,513	35,315	134	74	208	.....	.....	.....	35,523
1901	3,379	3,886	1,268	8,533	4,814	5,548	10,362	18,895	1,472	1,925	3,397	1,310	820	2,130	24,422
1902	2,612	2,324	1,343	6,279	2,470	2,723	5,193	11,472	817	523	1,340	1,530	1,801	3,331	16,143
1903	2,163	1,702	765	4,630	3,658	4,503	8,161	12,791	1,072	838	1,910	.....	.....	.....	14,701
1904[3]	1,567	1,551	1,501	4,685	3,698	4,539	8,237	12,922	714	1,076	1,790	.....	.....	.....	14,712
1905[4]	1,267	1,512	792	3,571	4,352	4,282	8,634	12,205	857	736	1,972	.....	.....	.....	14,177

[1] Includes 453 skins taken on northwest coast by a vessel lost at sea.
[2] Includes 379 skins taken from Russian Copper Islands by Mexican schooner Acapulca.
[3] Includes 232 skins taken on Japan coast, sex of which is not known.
[4] Includes 66 skins taken on northwest coast by Mexican schooner Carmencita (Acapulca) in 1905.

TABLE 2.—*Statement of catch of Japanese sealing fleet.*

[Based on incomplete returns from consuls.]

Years.	Japan Sea.	Japan coast.	Robbin Island.	Commander Islands.	Bering Sea.	Total.
1896	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,319
1897	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,616
1898	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,757
1899	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,518
1900	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,533
1901	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,045
1902	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,780
1903	5,212	449	.....	3,495	2,222	11,378
1904	5,714	1,012	4,654	5,095	349	16,824
1905	.....	3,101	.....	7,906	[1] 399	11,406

[1] These skins were taken from the Pribulof herd, but on the northwest coast and not in Bering Sea.

The above statement is compiled from reports from consuls in Japan, the only source of information available.

DIRECTION OF THE ALASKAN FUR-SEAL SERVICE.

DECEMBER 15, 1906.

The following order was issued by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, under date of December 15, 1906:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
December 15, 1906.

To whom it may concern:

It is hereby ordered that the appropriations for "Salaries, agents at seal fisheries in Alaska, 1907," and "Supplies for native inhabitants, Alaska, 1907," sundry civil act approved June 30, 1906, shall be expended under the immediate direction of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C., June 21, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: In reply to your request that I report the annual and sick leave and leave without pay taken by the employees of the Alaskan seal fisheries during the present calendar year, I have the honor to state:

I have been unable to discover that any record is kept of the leave taken by the employees of the Alaskan seal fisheries. Under the law and regulations of the department, the employees of this service discharge their duties on the Pribilof Islands, Bering Sea, and a very small proportion of the time of any or either of them is spent in Washington. These employees usually see two, and sometimes three, years' continual service on the islands.

As an illustration: Mr. Lembkey, the chief agent, and Mr. Judge, the assistant agent, who spent 4 or 5 months in Washington during the past winter, had each been on the islands 18 or 20 months. After they arrived in Washington a considerable portion of their time was consumed in writing their report and discharging other duties in connection with the seal service, made necessary by the fact that the administrative end of this service at Washington was conducted without any expense to the Government for clerk hire, etc. With the exception of a day or two at a time, which in my opinion did not aggregate more than a week or 10 days, Mr. Lembkey was not absent from the office during his stay in Washington. Mr. Judge, I believe, was out of the city for about 30 days.

Very respectfully,

EDWIN W. SIMS,
Solicitor.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, June 23, 1906.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of June 21, in regard to annual and sick leave and leave without pay taken by the employees of the Alaskan seal fisheries, and in reply have to inform you that it is my desire that these employees shall be subject, as far as practicable, to the department regulations, and with that end in view I have to request that you submit, as soon as practicable after the close of each calendar year, a statement showing the annual and sick leave and leave without pay taken by such employees.

Respectfully,

(Signed) LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

The SOLICITOR.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, November 27, 1906.

SIR: Owing to my departure from St. Paul Island last summer nearly a month before I had anticipated, there were left there a number of undeveloped photographic plates of the seal rookeries on that island which I had taken and which I had intended developing and submitting to the department with my report.

These plates have since been forwarded by Agent Judge and are now at the department. In addition, Agent Chichester has forwarded a complete set of negatives of the rookeries on St. George Island.

In order that the department may have a knowledge of the appearance of the seal rookeries at the height of the season of 1906, I have the honor to request that arrangements be made for the developing of such negatives as require that treatment and for the printing therefrom of at least three positives from each plate.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Alaskan Seal Fisheries.

The SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Approved.

CHARLES EARL,
Solicitor.

ANNUAL REPORT SEAL FISHERIES OF ALASKA, 1906.

[By W. I. LEMBKEY, Agent in Charge of Alaskan Seal Fisheries.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, December 14, 1906.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my report of the conduct of affairs on the seal islands of Alaska for the season of 1906.

I left Washington May 12, 1906, under instructions from the department, took passage on the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer*, which sailed from Portland, Oreg., May 22, arriving at St. George Island June 8 and St. Paul Island June 9. I left St. Paul Island July 20 and proceeded with Japanese prisoners to Unalaska on the U. S. S. *McCulloch*. Returning to St. Paul on the same vessel July 26, I left the next morning on her for Unalaska, Kodiak, and Valdez, to attend the United States court at the latter place as a witness in the case of the United States against 12 Japanese, arrested for raiding St. Paul Island. I left Valdez September 5 on the *Excelsior* and arrived in Washington September 20, having stopped en route at Chicago, as directed by the department, for a conference with Hon. E. W. Sims, United States attorney.

This report lacks the usual count of pups and the various collateral counts made on St. Paul between July 15 and 31, for the reason that this island after July 15 was surrounded by a large fleet of Japanese pelagic schooners hunting seals in the immediate vicinity of the island. To have continued counting under these circumstances would have involved the driving off the rookeries of large numbers of

female breeding seals to fall the prey of pelagic hunters within sight of land. Assistant Agent Judge, in charge on St. Paul, acting on the advice of Mr. Sims, who was then present, accordingly discontinued any further activity on the rookeries which would have a tendency to disturb the seals and drive them into the water.

RESERVATION OF BACHELORS.

The "branding" or marking of bachelors to be reserved for breeding purposes necessarily was the first work of the season. While this was commenced as soon as possible after my arrival, a scarcity of seals prevented its being accomplished until June 23 on St. Paul and June 30 on St. George. Previous to this time young males could not be obtained on the hauling grounds in sufficient numbers to secure the quota required to be marked.

At St. Paul on June 14, a fair number of bachelors having been found on the Reef, a drive was contemplated for the day following. During the night, however, a brisk rain occurred, and the following morning only a few seals were hauled out, the others presumably having left because of the rain. From the handful secured, however, we marked 69 two-year-olds and 77 three-year-olds. In addition to these, 7 four-year-olds were marked and 10 old brands renewed.

After this date seals were not present in sufficient numbers to justify further efforts to mark bachelors until June 22, when a drive was made from the same rookery and 1,243 seals marked—684 two-year-olds, 538 three-year-olds, and 21 four-year-olds. On the following day, at Zapadni, 116 two-year-olds and 265 three-year-olds were marked, filling the quota of bachelors to be marked for that island.

On St. George the marking of bachelors was begun on June 14 and finished June 30.

The method of marking seals to be reserved for breeding seals at present in vogue on the islands is humane, and is effective so far as land killing is concerned. The seal is dragged from the "pod" by a noose of rope placed over its head by means of a pole, and held down while the hair and fur on its head are clipped off with sheep shears. This operation is painless and the mark made is readily discernible during the killing season. In the fall, when the new hair grows out, the mark made in the spring is obliterated, but measures have been taken by the agents to avoid including in the fall killings for food the bachelors reserved in the spring as breeders.

In 1904, the year in which branding was begun, the agents placed a limit of weight of 6 pounds on all sealskins to be taken in the fall. This was intended to and did absolutely exempt from killing all the 3-year-olds, together with 75 per cent of the 2-year-olds. Of the remaining 25 per cent of this latter class it may be said that there are so many hauling grounds on the island in the fall that are not driven from at all, which these seals frequent, that few even of the smallest marked bachelors are killed.

Furthermore, the 3-year-olds, having passed the age of puberty, are not found on the hauling grounds during the fall, but are hauled among the cows on the rookeries where they can not be driven. This is an additional safeguard against their killing and of itself would disprove any allegation that these marked seals are subsequently killed.

The object of marking male seals for breeders primarily was to provide a reserve of 3-year-olds, rendering them immune from slaughter, to pass into the 4-year-old or prohibited class, and thus be allowed to mature as breeders. At the same time a reserve of 2-year-olds was made, as a cumulative measure of safety, to insure a stock of 3-year-olds the next season, and to operate conjointly with the regulations restricting the killing of seals under 5½ pounds, to accomplish the purpose of allowing a safe number of seals to escape clubbing and mature as breeding bulls.

When, however, this regulation (restricting the killing of young males to seals having skins weighing over 5½ pounds) was enforced, it was found that this operated to release from the killing drives so many 2-year-olds, in addition to those marked and released, that the reservation by marking of any of this class, while undoubtedly wise, was practically a work of supererogation, and that without clipping any of the 2-year-olds enough of that class escaped under the 5½-pound restriction to provide an ample supply of 3-year-olds for the next year.

In the light of experience this 5½-pound limit has since been reduced to 5 pounds, but with this reduction several thousands of 2-year-olds are annually turned away to appear the next year as 3-year-olds, without considering those marked by clipping their heads, as above stated.

It follows, therefore, that if a few of the marked 2-year-olds are included in the fall killings, even to 25 per cent of that class, which is not the case, there would still be such a number of 2-year-olds in existence that were not marked at all that no difficulty would be experienced in obtaining the supply of 3-year-olds for clipping the following spring, which is the object desired.

A permanent brand could be made only by the use of a hot iron. The mark would also have to be made on top of the head of the seal. As the skull is very thin, it is believed that a severe brand might easily injure the brain and lay the whole practice open to a charge of inhumanity. It never was the intention of the department to make a permanent brand. When hot irons were used the agents were instructed that in marking the seals care should be taken not to burn into the skin of the animal. When it was found that hot irons could not be used in wet weather, but that sheep shears were efficacious at any time, the latter were at once used to the exclusion of all other means.

The hot irons can be used at any time that it is desired to experiment with permanently branded seals. A number of those branded in 1904 on the head with hot irons have appeared in the drives of subsequent years with a permanent head brand more or less distinct. These seals, which were either 2 or 3 year olds in 1904, can be recognized on the rookeries when they secure footing there as bulls, and it is probable that through them some interesting facts will be discovered in connection with the ascertainment of the exact age and longevity of breeding bulls. Should pelagic sealing be abolished, experiments should be conducted by means of permanent brands on certain bachelors, to establish definite knowledge as to the age of adult males, their length of service on the breeding grounds, and whether they return to the same locality each year.

It must be remembered that pelagic sealing interferes materially with the operation of any methods adopted on land for the saving of seals for purposes of the future and renders them in a measure conjectural. When it is considered that all of these reserved bachelors are forced to run the gauntlet of the spear and the shotgun while in the water, a wide margin of loss from mortality at sea must be allowed before any measures involving the saving of seals can be considered efficacious.

Undoubtedly it is obligatory upon the Government to insure enough males for future breeding purposes. But it must not be forgotten at the same time that the Government in so doing aids pelagic sealing through every seal allowed to escape on land which could properly be killed there. In my judgment the practice of saving seals for breeding purposes should be continued only so long as it is probable that a settlement of the pelagic sealing question can be accomplished. But, unless this settlement on a satisfactory basis appears imminent, I would recommend the killing on land of every seal that can be killed under existing law.

KILLING OF SEALS.

On St. Paul Island the lessee took during the sealing season of 1906 a total of 10,942 skins, which, added to 1,701 skins taken during the previous fall and spring in food drives or left on hand from the last season, made a total of 12,643 skins in the salt houses on that island at the season's close, July 31, 1906. Of these, 83 small and 23 large skins were outside the limits of weight prescribed by the department (5 pounds to 8½ pounds) and are held on the island subject to the department's order.

On St. George the lessee took during the regular sealing season 1,685 skins. In addition to these, 315 eligible skins were taken in previous food drives, making a total of 2,000 skins for that island, which was its quota as determined by the department. Of these, 55 small skins and 5 large skins were retained as being outside the regular weights.

The lessee shipped at the close of the season in question 12,536 skins from St. Paul and 1,940 from St. George, a total of 14,476 skins, upon which the stipulated payment of $10.22½ for each skin should be made.

FAILURE TO SECURE QUOTA.

It will be noted that, while the quota of 2,000 for St. George was obtained, the lessee failed to secure the St. Paul quota of 13,000, notwithstanding the reduction of the limit of weight in skins from 5½ to 5 pounds. This is probably due to a scarcity of seals; but, owing to the fact that the hauling grounds on Northeast Point and Zapadni rookeries were constantly disturbed during the period of July 16 to 20, due to the raids there by Japanese poachers at a time when the hauling grounds should be most frequented, it is possible that this cause contributed in a measure to the failure to obtain the whole quota.

The total number of seals taken on St. Paul includes 63 skins from female seals killed by Japanese poachers, which they were unable to make away with.

NUMBER OF DRIVES.

During the lessee's season on St. Paul 30 drives were made for skins, including 4 drives in which less than 40 skins were taken in each. In all of the drives the percentage of seals killed varied from a minimum of 43 per cent to a maximum of 69 per cent.

On St. George during the lessee's season 14 drives were made, in which the percentage of seals killed to the whole number driven varied from 71 to 23 per cent.

EFFECT OF NEW REGULATIONS.

The instructions of the department to me, dated March 9, 1906, lowered the limit of weight on sealskins to be taken to a minimum of 5 pounds and provided, also, that skins were not to be taken weighing more than 8½ pounds. All skins under 5 pounds and over 8½ pounds were not to be delivered to the company, but were to be held by the agents subject to future instructions from the department.

These instructions were promulgated upon my arrival and were properly enforced. During the summer 138 small and 28 large skins were so retained by the agents, and are now on the islands awaiting instructions from the department.

The skin of a 4-year-old male is classed as weighing, on the average, over 8½ pounds. The regulation prohibiting the killing of seals over this weight was designed to give additional immunity to those 4-year-old males which, having passed the 2 and 3 year old stages, were desired to mature into adult bulls. The statistics gathered by the agents during the summer show that this regulation has been effective. In 1905, when there was no prohibition against the shipment of skins over 8½ pounds, but simply an injunction against the killing of 4-year-olds, there were dismissed on the killing field on St. Paul as the result of this regulation 363 four-year-olds during the summer. In the summer of 1906, when the shipment of skins over 8½ pounds was first prohibited, 1,001 four-year-olds were turned away, a difference in favor of 1906 of 638 dismissals in this class. On St. George 244 large dismissals occurred in 1906, as against 191 in 1905.

While, of course, some of the dismissals represent animals which have been driven twice or even more, yet it is known that the percentage of large animals redriven is much less than in the case of the small ones. The number of 4-year-old dismissals, therefore, must represent to a great extent animals of this class actually in being.

The large increase mentioned above in the number of prime males which have passed the stage where they will be liable to clubbing demonstrates the efficiency of the present regulations. These large animals dismissed, in addition to those branded and released, afford the herd a splendid class of young males each year to mature as breeding bulls. These dismissals occurring from year to year, in the future will supply all the adult male life necessary on the rookeries and will never again allow the adult male class to become depleted.

The reduction in 1906 of the limit of weight on small skins from 5½ to 5 pounds was made by the department because of the fact that

the latter weight more nearly represented the dividing line between 1 and 2 year old seals. The young males between 5 and 5½ pounds undoubtedly are 2-year-olds, and the 5½-pound prohibition resulted in arbitrarily turning away from the killing fields several thousands of small 2-year-olds that otherwise would be killed for quota.

This reduction of the limit in weight resulted in the dismissal in 1906 of 3,980 small seals, as against 5,548 in 1905. These 3,980 dismissals in 1906 are shown elsewhere to represent approximately 3,300 animals.

In my opinion, this closer killing among the smaller 2-year-olds is advisable. Present safeguards against too close killing are ample. With their strict enforcement, it is the part of wisdom to allow the lessee to take all remaining young males not covered by prohibitory regulation, as in so doing it reduces to a minimum a class of seals upon which the pelagic sealers prey during the summer, and which, if saved, would offer no further benefit to the herd than that now assured under the regulations governing the killing on land.

STATISTICS OF KILLINGS.

The statistics of killings made on St. Paul Island during the past season show 18,411 animals driven, of which 10,942 were killed. This includes the skins of 63 female seals killed and abandoned by the Japanese raiders on Northeast Point rookery July 17. These statistics refer only to the period of summer killing and do not include the dismissals from the fall drives for food, in which cows, bachelors, and yearlings are so intermingled as to make a record of dismissals therefrom of no value.

It can be seen from the table, which is herewith submitted as an exhibit, that the killings by the lessee on St. Paul comprises 59 per cent of the animals driven. During the season the killings varied from a maximum of 69 per cent to a minimum of 43 per cent.

The dismissals on St. Paul of branded 2-year-olds numbered 1,012 out of a total of 869 marked on that island, or 16 per cent more than the whole number of these animals marked at the beginning of the season. Of the 880 branded 3-year-olds 693 dismissals occurred, which shows that the dismissals in the 3-year-old class fail by 20 per cent to represent the total number of animals.

These statistics of rejections in the 2 and 3 year old classes are valuable in showing approximately the number of small animals represented by the dismissals from the drives of seals not branded. These dismissals in 1906 aggregated 3,980 on St. Paul and were all practically 2-year-olds, too small to render 5-pound skins. So few yearlings were included as to render their consideration of no value.

Having found from the dismissals of branded 2-year-olds that they represented 16 per cent more than the number actually branded, and applying the same rule to the dismissals of 2-year-olds that were not branded, we can see that the 3,980 dismissals in this class represent approximately 3,300 animals. While, of course, this is only an approximation, it is based upon a rule containing so much of the elements of certainty as to give a fair idea of the number of individuals included in the rejected class.

These 3,300 2-year-olds, together with the 800 branded of that class on St. Paul, demonstrate that too close killing does not occur at the present time and insures an ample number of 3-year-olds for 1907.

CLASSIFICATION OF LARGE SEALS REJECTED.

During the summer on St. Paul 1,707 large seals were turned away from the drives, of which, according to the classification made at the time of dismissal, 1,001 were 4-year-olds, 383 were 5-year-olds, 213 were 6-year-olds, 72 were 7-year-olds, and 38 were mature bulls. The large number of 4-year-olds is significant and demonstrates the efficacy of the regulations of the department prohibiting the killing of 4-year-old males, or, if killed, the shipment of their skins. During the season of 1905 a similar record shows the dismissal of only 363 4-year-olds.

A schedule of these classified dismissals is appended as an exhibit.

ENUMERATION OF SEAL LIFE.

An enumeration of breeding bulls on both islands showed a decrease from the previous year.

On St. Paul, at the height of the season of 1906, 1,244 adult bulls were found on the rookeries. Of these, 1,205 had harems and 39 were idle. In addition to these were found 41 young bulls present on the rookeries, but not holding their positions when approached. These latter have been termed by us "quitters."

On St. George in 1906, 204 adult bulls were found, of which 196 had harems and 8 were idle. In addition there were 13 "quitters."

In 1905, 1,455 bulls with harems were found on St. Paul, together with 75 idle bulls and 44 young quitters, while on St. George 258 bulls with harems and 22 idle bulls were noted. A comparison of these figures with the counts made in 1906 shows a decrease in the year in bulls on St. Paul of 286, or 18 per cent, and on St. George of 76, or 27 per cent.

Following is given the count of bulls on St. Paul, by rookeries, made in 1906. The column marked "Bulls" does not include those counted as quitters:

Count of bulls, St. Paul, 1906.

Date.	Rookeries.	Bulls.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.
July 13	Gorbatch Cliffs	8	7	1	.....
13	Gorbatch	111	109	2	1
13	Ardiguen	14	14	.....	.....
13	Reef	206	201	5	13
13	Ketovi	43	40	3	3
13	Amphitheater	7	7	.....	1
13	Lukanin	38	36	2	2
13	Little Polovina	12	12	.....	1
13	Polovina Cliffs	27	26	1	3
13	Polovina	38	38	2	2
14	Zapadni	169	162	7	3
14	Little Zapadni	81	78	3	.....
14	Zapadni Reef	14	14	.....	.....
14	Tolstoi	112	112	.....	.....
14	Tolstoi Cliffs	34	32	2	1
14	Lagoon	23	21	2	1
16	Northeast Point	305	296	9	10
	Total	1,244	1,205	39	41

It will be noted that no idle bulls were found on Ardiguen, Amphitheater, Little Polovina, Zapadni Reef, and Tolstoi, while only 9 were found on the entire stretch of Northeast Point rookery, the largest

breeding ground on the entire island, and only 5 were found on Reef rookery and 7 on Zapadni, the two rookeries next largest in size.

These counts were carefully made by Agent Judge, in company with Mr. Marsh, the naturalist of the Bureau of Fisheries. While I was occupied in the main with photographing the rookeries at the time these counts were made, I participated in several of them, thus furnishing an additional check upon their accuracy. They are not in any sense estimates or approximations based upon superficial observations, but actual enumerations in the strictest sense, embracing every bull present at the height of the season. No locality where bulls were hauled up was overlooked in making these counts.

The detailed counts of harems on St. George, made at the height of the season, follows:

Bulls on St. George, 1906.

Rookeries.	Bulls with harems.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.
North	78	3	3
Staraya Artel	26	.....	2
Zapadni	34	3	3
East Cliffs	34	2	3
East Reef	16	.....	2
Little East	8	.....	.....
Total	196	8	13

These counts, as carefully made by Agents Chichester and Clark, disclose the lack of idle bulls on Staraya Artel, East Reef, and Little East rookeries.

BULLS ON SEA LION ROCK.

A breeding rookery exists on Sea Lion Rock, off St. Paul, but it was not possible to reach this islet in a boat at the time harems were counted on the main island. On a visit, however, on June 24, I found 54 bulls hauled there. This early count, made three weeks before the height of the season, will nevertheless serve to show that this isolated breeding ground contains only a normal number of bulls and that it is not the abiding place of such a number of adult males as would disprove the statement that the bulls have decreased greatly.

DESERTED HAULING GROUNDS.

Such hauling grounds as Zoltoi Sands, English Bay, and the sand beach west of Hutchinson Hill were devoid of seal life during the summer. No seals of any description were found on them. The same may be said of the beach line adjacent to Halfway Point (or Polovina) rookery and of those beaches or cliffs in the vicinity of each rookery where in former times young bulls were wont to haul up after having failed to enter the breeding area proper. In every instance in which counts were made on the various rookeries during the summer the agents not only covered the rookery itself, but searched the beach line on all sides of it to be sure that no stray "polsikatchie" were overlooked. In offering this count of bulls, therefore, I feel perfectly safe in assuring the department that it represents all bulls present on the islands.

At the present time the hauling grounds of Zoltoi and English Bay have no more significance as abiding places for seals than Black Bluffs. They were absolutely destitute of seal life during the past summer. So far as their investigation is concerned, they could not figure in our notes except through the insertion of reiterated statements that there were no seals present. At the close of the season, after the rookery formation has disintegrated, these, as well as other, hauling grounds probably offered a resting place for a few former harem masters that had deserted their rookery stations after a summer's service, and had hauled up there to recuperate; but as these bulls had previously been counted on the rookeries where they had held harems, their further enumeration after the season's close would serve only to confuse the counts already made.

In former years, when there was a superabundance of rookery bulls, young bulls were driven to the bachelors' hauling grounds, and the beaches adjoining breeding rookeries, because the adult bulls would not allow them to haul among the cows, and the youngsters were not strong enough to force their way in. At the present time, however, owing to the small number of rookery bulls present, the young males can find an entrance into almost any rookery and stand a good chance of picking up a cow or two before the season is over. The necessity for their frequenting these former hauling grounds is now lacking, and the young bulls do not resort to the hauling grounds, for the obvious reason that the breeding rookeries offer more attraction.

CONDITION OF ROOKERY BULLS.

The number and character of the bulls stationed on the breeding rookeries with cows was given early attention.

On my arrival on St. George, June 8, I visited North rookery on that island for the purpose of making a count of bulls. In going from point to point on the rookery, it was soon apparent that the bulls present displayed a larger proportion of fine young animals between 7 and 8 years of age than I had ever before observed. Only a few old bulls, distinguished by their rusty color, worn teeth, and comparative lack of spirit, could be seen. About 50 per cent of the bulls on that rookery were magnificient young animals just reaching maturity. The others were middle-aged bulls, showing the marks of previous service on the breeding grounds. An old bull was a rarity.

Arriving at St. Paul the next day, and having in mind the unusual number of young bulls present on North rookery, I made a careful inspection of the bulls on Gorbatch and found the proportion of fully developed young animals there to be even greater than on St. George. On Gorbatch Cliffs, of 7 bulls found 5 were young animals fully grown, but not over 8 years of age. On Gorbatch, of the 77 bulls present 54 were not over 8 years. Only 10 bulls were found with broken-down teeth and other marks indicating old age. Only one was found that, on being aroused, did not show fight. Of the old bulls several chased me some distance, showing that their powers were in no wise diminished.

The other rookeries were then gone over by myself and Agent Judge, and as careful an analysis as possible was made of the bulls present with regard to age. On all rookeries this practical absence of old animals was found, as well as the preponderance of young bulls,

although in some instances the proportion of quite young bulls was not so great as that found on Gorbatch and on North rookery.

This condition shows not so much an unusual influx of young animals as the practical disappearance of the old males, and the further significant fact that there were in existence young males to take their places.

It is probable that during several years recently past the number of accessions of new bulls on the rookeries was small. This failure of new blood created a hiatus in the succession of rookery masters, which was apparent in the rapid decrease of bulls on the rookeries. This gap has been bridged over by the survival of those bulls already on the rookeries, but has left a sharp line of demarcation between the old and new bulls. The presence of this large proportion of young bulls shows that the crisis has been met and passed successfully.

In 1904 the first reservation of 3-year-old males was made and the first prohibition against the killing of 4-year-olds enforced. Of the supposed 3-year-olds reserved in that year some were undoubtedly small 4-year-olds. The survivors of these 4-year-olds released or reserved in 1904 will be 7 years old in 1907, and will appear on the rookeries for the first time as full rookery bulls. It is too much to say that any benefit from these reservations was felt in 1906. It is certainly proper to claim, however, that the first benefits from this source will accrue in the coming season of 1907; that the decrease in rookery bulls which has been constant for some years will be then checked in a measure at least and that a steady augmentation of rookery bulls will be noted from that year.

There is but one factor that will possibly operate to defeat this assurance of an increase in bulls, and that is the effect of pelagic sealing upon the reservations of young males. All of these reserved seals are in danger of being killed at sea by pelagic sealers before they fully mature as bulls. How many of them are killed by this means can never be known. As before stated, the exemption of any seals that could be killed lawfully on land is just so much encouragement to the pelagic sealer, and subsequent events must determine speedily whether it is the wiser policy to create a reservation of male seals even for breeders or to kill all on land that can be taken under existing law.

ABSENCE OF IDLE BULLS.

As can be seen from the tables appended hereto, the scarcity of bulls was even greater in 1906 than in 1905, in which latter year the number of this class present was so small as to amount to a virtual disappearance.

On the St. Paul rookeries in 1906 there were only 39 idle mature bulls. In 1905 there were 75 idle. In 1905 there were 44 "quitters" on these rookeries, while in 1906 there were 41, 3 per cent of the entire number of the bulls present. This is a larger percentage of "quitters" than was found in former years, and of itself shows that there was a larger percentage of young bulls present in 1906 than formerly. This is additional evidence of the fact, stated elsewhere, that the rookeries in 1906 contained more young bulls than the year previous.

YOUNG BULLS IN CHARGE OF COWS.

During the summer a number of young bulls, which at first ran at our approach, afterwards obtained cows and held their ground, and were included by us among the full-grown harem bulls. These young animals were 7-year-olds and were fully capable of serving cows.

On July 1 I found a harem on Gorbatch Cliffs containing a cow and 2 pups deserted by its bull. There was no idle bull present at the time to fill the vacancy. On July 4 this harem was still without a bull. On July 6 a 7-year-old "quitter" had taken possession of this harem and had under him 2 cows and 3 pups. He ran into the water at my approach. On July 8 this young bull had 7 cows, over which, while I remained hidden, he lorded it with all the precision of a veteran, but from which he fled incontinently when I rose up from the high grass and showed myself. On July 9 this bull had 2 cows and 6 pups and again fled at my appearance. On July 11 he was still present, but great care had to be exercised in observing him to keep out of sight, as the least movement on my part through the high grass caused him to edge toward the water.

This incident, typical in character, occurring on a portion of rookery space where no idle bulls were present, gives a fair idea of what happens on other rookery areas where a lack of bulls exists. It shows that cows do not escape impregnation, even if their first bull deserts. Had no other bull arrived to take the place of the one which abandoned this harem site, the deserted cows, by moving to either side, could have entered harems where there were bulls anxious to receive them. Whether any of these cows sought other bulls is not known, but it is very possible that some did, leaving their pups in the first harem. This fact is suggested strongly by the harem's containing only 2 cows with 6 pups on July 9.

SITUATION AT HUTCHINSON HILL.

In my report for 1905, I called attention to the fact that in the mass of seals under Hutchinson Hill at Northeast Point the harem formations broke up at an earlier date than usual, and that on the 16th of July, when the rigidity of harem discipline should be greatest, the cows wandered at will over the sand flat in company with bachelors and half bulls.

The reason for this was found in the fact that the large number of cows on the flat were in charge of only a few bulls, while no idle bulls were present. The engaged bulls were each required to serve an unusually large number of cows, causing them to reach the limit of their procreative power before the usual time. The harem formations at this spot, therefore, instead of remaining intact until at least the 15th of July, became broken practically a week earlier.

During the past summer (1906) considerable attention was given to the seals in this locality, with a view of determining whether the condition noted the year previous would be recurrent.

On July 5 I found on the sand flat under the hill, and exclusive of the beach slope which was obscured, 21 bulls and about 1,500 cows, conservatively estimated. At the eastern end of the mass, slightly segregated, were 184 cows with 1 bull. Among the entire

mass of cows were 11 bulls. In the rear of the mass and detached from it were 10 bulls, 2 of which were idle and the others had harems ranging from 1 to 9 cows.

At this early date the 11 bulls in the mass, which was then compact, had on an average at least 125 cows each, and only 2 idle bulls were present. One of the latter was a young bull not stationed, while the other was mature.

On the 10th I found the mass still compact, with the number of bulls unchanged. A greater number of cows was present than was found on the 5th. At the time of this visit I took photographs of the mass, to contrast them with those to be taken when the cows should spread out over the sand flat.

On July 16 the compact formation had disappeared and the mass was found to have spread out over twice the former area occupied. The harem formation had also gone. The greater number of cows was found at the rear of the flat adjoining the hill when, before the disintegration, they were pressed close to the beach slope. On the flat area, in and immediately adjoining the mass, were 21 bulls, none of which was idle. A number of bachelors was playing on the rocks awash in front of the beach line. While it was impossible at the time to make a thorough examination as to the number of bachelors in the mass, I could easily distinguish several branded bachelors among the cows by their shaved heads, which were conspicuous. The bulls had lost or had relinquished control of the area and the cows moved as they pleased.

The recurrence of this condition at this place in 1906 justifies the mention of it in my report for 1905. The significance of this situation was mentioned in my last report. It means simply that in the massed area under Hutchinson Hill the normal number of cows for each bull has been exceeded. While some little distance on either side of the mass or at the water's edge there were proably a few idle bulls, they retained their positions which they first preempted and did not move in to the cows under the hill that probably needed them.

I am frank to say that this condition was noted only at Hutchinson Hill. Undoubtedly, all cows were impregnated in that locality as in all others. I believe the bulls at this particular place had greater demands on their vitality than would have occurred in a state of nature, and it was to relieve a condition of this character that the practice of reserving young males from slaughter was commenced in 1904 and continued thereafter. Unless the greater number of these reserved animals are destroyed by the pelagic sealers, whose efforts to take seals in the immediate vicinity of the islands have been redoubled in the last year, an augmentation of breeding bulls will be noted the coming year, which will relieve the condition of a scarcity of bulls.

ALL COWS SERVED.

Particular attention was paid by me during the past summer to determine whether any evidence of failure of impregnation of cows could be found. In no instance was I able to discover that any cow had not received proper service from the bulls. On the contrary, every observation showed that during the season of 1905 all cows in heat were served and bore young in 1906.

It was seen plainly last summer that all females landing on the rookeries during the breeding season were gravid, without an exception noted, and that within 24 hours thereafter, generally speaking, they gave birth to their young. These cows, fresh from the water, could be distinguished by their brilliant coats of steel gray. These new arrivals were invariably seen to be gravid or with newborn pups at their sides. The brown cows, those that had been out of the water long enough to have lost the beautiful gray coloration, had pups by their sides. This was an invariable rule during the pupping season and showed conclusively that no lack of virile male life was encountered the previous season.

Careful investigation has failed to disclose any evidence showing that the herd of cows has suffered in any way from the reduction in the number of bulls which has occurred for several years past. It is true that this falling off among bulls has been so marked as to justify its being considered at length and to necessitate the adoption of measures to check this decrease; but it is also true that the breeding bulls have not reached that point of decrease where it would result in a lessened number of pups being born because of a scarcity of bulls, and that, with the present regulations in force, this condition can never happen.

COUNTS OF PUPS.

It has been the yearly practice heretofore to count all the live and dead pups on the St. George rookeries and about one-third of the entire number on the St. Paul rookeries, with a view of establishing a correct idea of the increase or decrease in seal life. This counting has been done as near July 31 as possible.

It was the intention last summer to carry out this plan as usual. The aspect of affairs, however, was suddenly changed by the arrival around St. Paul Island of a large fleet of Japanese sealing schooners, operating so close to the rookeries as to be constantly in sight of land. Because of their immediate presence it was considered unwise to make any disturbance of the rookeries such as would be involved in a count of pups, thereby driving the female seals into the water to be killed by the pelagic sealers. The usual count of pups, therefore, on St. Paul Island was omitted last summer.

Previous to the date of the first raid on the St. Paul rookeries, July 16, the usual daily counts of cows on the various rookeries on that island were made. In this way it was demonstrated that a decrease had occurred in the number of cows on every rookery counted at the height of the season varying from 10 per cent to 28 per cent. In other words, at the time when the greatest number of cows was present on land on St. Paul in 1906 the counts showed their numbers to be from 10 to 28 per cent less than they were at the same time of the preceding season.

This count of cows present has not been used heretofore as a basis for determining the whole number frequenting the rookeries, for the reason that all cows are never present on land at one time. It has been considered of value merely as establishing the rate of influx during the summer, the determination of the date when the height of the season occurs, and matters of that kind. The entire female population of a rookery can be ascertained only by a count of pups, as every breeding cow is taken to have a pup on shore. This count should be

made as soon as possible after the pupping season is over and before the pups have learned to swim. By this method the number of adult females can be ascertained correctly.

While being less exact than an actual count of pups, by the enumeration of cows present on certain rookeries on given dates, and the comparison of these counts with those made on similar dates the year previous, it can be ascertained with reasonable exactness whether or not the herd of cows has decreased or diminished. An accurate idea of the rate of this change, however, can be arrived at only by an enumeration of the pups.

Both the daily counts of cows and the lessened amount of rookery space occupied demonstrate beyond question that a decrease has occurred in the number of cows on the St. Paul rookeries. A conservative estimate would place this decrease in the neighborhood of 20 per cent. The application of this rate of decrease to the number of cows present on this island in 1905 (65,884) would show that on August 1 last there were 52,700 breeding females on St. Paul. This is as close an estimation as it is possible to make without an actual count of pups.

Since August 1, however, the seal herd has suffered from the combined attacks of both the Japanese and Canadian sealing fleets, with a total strength of probably 50 vessels, operating during the months of August and September and a portion of the month of October, the catch of which represents in the neighborhood of 80 per cent of females. The loss from this source was unusually heavy and is not included in the numbers above given. It will be apparent on the islands in the death of pups from starvation, and reports concerning it will not be received until next spring.

On St. George an actual count was made by Agents Chichester and Clark of all pups born on that island last summer, which showed 11,233 live and 224 dead pups. In 1905, 12,699 live and 253 dead pups were counted, from which it appears that a decrease on that island has occurred in pups born during the year's interval of 11 per cent.

Considering the increased activity in pelagic sealing during the past summer, an estimate would place the number in the whole Pribilof Islands herd of seals at 180,000 animals of all classes.

DEAD PUPS.

A careful search was made during the summer for dead pups, with a view to determining whether any considerable number of deaths resulted before the effects of pelagic sealing became apparent on the rookeries through the presence of starved pups, and also the cause of death of those found.

It is known, of course, that on the death of a mother seal the pup on shore dies of starvation, as no other female will suckle it. It follows, therefore, that for every adult cow killed at sea there is a corresponding death of a pup on shore.

When pelagic sealing was practiced only by vessels flying the Canadian flag, it was subject to the regulations of the Paris tribunal, which forbid seal killing between May 1 and August 1 of each year. As from 10 to 15 days are required for a pup to die of starvation,

the effect of sea killing on the newborn pups was not noticed on land much before August 15 of each year. Prior to this date, the death of pups could not be laid to pelagic sealing and had to be ascribed to some other agency.

Since the advent, however, of the Japanese as a factor in pelagic sealing the date when starved pups should be apparent on the rookeries has changed. The Japanese, as well as all other nations except the United States and Great Britain, are not bound by the Paris award, and they are free to engage in pelagic sealing at any time without regard to the closed season mentioned in the award. As the Japanese actually commence seal killing in Bering Sea previous to the 1st of July, deaths of pups from starvation occur at almost any time during that month.

It is therefore impossible to say at the present time that any mortality in pups occurring before August 1 must be laid to some other source than pelagic sealing, as starved pups, whose mothers have been killed at sea, should now be found on the islands at any time during the summer.

Inquiries have been made recently of the department concerning the present effect of *uncinaria* on the seal pups, and it has been strongly intimated by certain persons that thousands of pups die annually from the ravages of this parasite, of which no mention is made in the agents' reports. The fact is that *uncinaria* has not now, nor has had for several years past, any known existence on the islands. This statement is justified by actual and careful examinations during the last three years.

At the time of the investigations of the Jordan Commission in 1896–97 numbers of dead pups were discovered prior to August 1, the cause of the death of which the commission finally ascribed to *uncinaria*, an intestinal parasite.

From the thousands of dead pups found the commission made 345 dissections in 1897, between the dates of July 25 and September 5, which resulted in their ascribing the death of 122 to *uncinaria*, 177 to starvation, and 46 to other causes. Large numbers of these dead pups were found on the flat or sandy areas forming portions of the rookeries of Tolstoi and Zapadni, and on those areas the commission determined that *uncinaria* was specially deadly. They inferred that the ovum or embryo of the parasite was deposited in the sands or on the surface of these flat areas through the feces of adult seals, and were picked up on the fur of the mother during the breeding season. They were then nursed in by the pup and, lodging in its intestines, there developed and found its host, causing death from anæmia.

It was claimed by the commission that *uncinaria* was actively an agent of death only on these flat areas. On the rocky beaches the ova were washed down between the interstices of the rocks and disappeared. The effect of this deadly parasite, therefore, must be looked for only on the flat areas.

The conditions which were noted by the commission in 1896–97 were probably abnormal. Since that time there has been observed no unusual number of dead pups on the areas described. The report of the commission states that dead pups were so numerous as to be thrown up in windrows on the sands of English Bay by a storm. Nothing of this character has occurred since.

Whatever may have been the effect from this parasite in former years, the fact stands that for several years past neither of the areas which have been mentioned as being heavily impregnated with *uncinaria* was occupied by seals. This is due to the shrinkage in the numbers of the herd and the consequent contraction of the space occupied. The flat stretch and gullies on Zapadni, known as the "death trap," where so many uncinariated pups were found by the Jordan Commission, do not contain seals at the present time. The seals on this, as on other rookeries, resort to the rocky beach. On Tolstoi the sand flat could be traversed almost at will at any time during the past season.

The statement that *uncinaria* has no known existence on the islands at the present time is predicated mainly on the fact that during the past summer Mr. M. C. Marsh, of the Bureau of Fisheries, an expert microscopist, in connection with the agents, made a careful search for dead pups, with a view of determining the causes of mortality. On Zapadni, as before stated, no pups were found on the area indicated by Dr. Jordan as being heavily infected. On Tolstoi a few sparse harems overlapped the sandy area from the beach line, but the number of seals thereon was small, and an observer at any time during the summer could have walked over the sand flat on that rookery. Agent Judge, in company with Mr. Marsh, visited the Tolstoi flat on several occasions with a view of determining the presence of dead pups and of ascertaining the cause of death of any found. On July 3 these gentlemen found a number of cows at the northern end of the area in charge of three bulls. About one-third of these cows were on the flat, while the remainder were on the rocky beach slope. In order to ascretain whether any dead pups were among these cows, they purposely stampeded them and drove nearly all into the water. On the rookery space vacated Mr. Judge counted 140 live pups, but found no dead. About 100 of these pups were on the sand. None of them showed signs of illness and when aroused, if sleeping, evinced abundant spirit.

On July 4 Mr. Marsh obtained a dead pup on the Reef. On autopsy its lungs were found crushed, indicating trampling. On several other occasions dead pups were found by either Mr. Judge, Mr. Marsh, or myself on other rookeries which, upon dissection, showed that they were either stillborn or had died immediately after birth. In these cases either the entire placenta or a portion of the umbilical cord still adhered.

During the summer I took photographs of the gully on Zapadni to show that no seals were present thereon. Further examinations of dead pups during the period of my stay on the islands were not made, solely for the reason that no specimens other than those already mentioned could be found.

In addition, Mr. Marsh examined a number of specimens of feces of adult seals under the microscope and could find no ova of *uncinaria* therein.

After July 16 the presence of so many sealing schooners in sight of the island made any disturbance of the seals on land decidedly unwise, and all counting or examination of the rookeries of such a nature as to drive the seals from land were discontinued. This is specially regretted, as it was contemplated to complete this examination by making a thorough count of all dead pups on the rookeries on or about

August 1, and to examine enough of them to determine whether or not *uncinaria* caused the death of any of them.

It can be stated, however, from such examination as could be made this summer, that *uncinaria* has no known existence on the islands, and that, if it is present at all, its effects are so slight as to from an inconsiderable feature in the death rate among pups.

PELAGIC SEALING.

Probably never in the history of the seal islands has the fur-seal herd suffered such a heavy blow as that which resulted from the operations of the pelagic-sealing fleet during the past summer. This fleet consisted approximately of 15 Canadian and 30 Japanese schooners.

The Canadian sealers, by the provisions of the "Paris award," are prohibited from killing seals in Bering Sea at any time with firearms, and are forced to observe a closed season between May 1 and July 31 of each year. They are required also to operate outside of a closed zone with a radius of 60 miles about the Pribilof Islands, inside of which killing of seals is forbidden.

No restrictions of this character, however, govern the Japanese vessels, so that in the open ocean they may take seals at any time and by any means. During the greater portion of the summer this latter fleet surrounded St. Paul Island, killing seals just outside the three-mile territorial limit. In some instances these vessels entered this limit, killing seals in violation of our laws. They even made a determined raid on the breeding rookeries themselves, in which the crews of four vessels apparently acted in concert.

The latter incident may be stated briefly as follows:

On the morning of July 16 a boat's crew of 6 Japanese landed at Northeast Point rookery, St. Paul Island, armed with a full equipment of clubs and other paraphernalia for seal killing, and were arrested by the agents of this department and the native guard before the marauders were able to kill any seals.

On the morning of July 17 a boat's crew of 3 Japanese, attempting to land with firearms on the same rookery, were arrested by the native guard and when escaping were fired upon and two of the boat's occupants killed and the third wounded.

On the evening of the same day a Japanese schooner, the same one which the morning previous had landed a boat's crew, anchored within 300 yards of the same rookery under cover of a dense fog and, landing its crew by means of small boats, succeeded in killing about 185 breeding seals, all but 2 of which were females in milk, and in securing the skins of about 120. Upon discovery by the agents and the native guard they attempted to escape with their plunder and, refusing to halt and submit to arrest, were fired upon by the native guard and 1 boat captured, containing 6 Japanese, 1 of whom was dead and 1 wounded. The body of another floated in the water and was not recovered by the boats, while the body of another is believed to have been thrown overboard from the schooner upon the return of the boats thereto. In this engagement the agents and the native guards were subjected to rifle fire from the deck of the schooner, without, however, any casualty.

In this latter raid the party landed in 6 boats and consisted of at least 25 men. The native guard numbered about 15 men, only 6 of whom were armed. The agents were not armed. While only 1 of the

boats was constrained to return to shore, several others could have been captured had the guard on shore been sufficiently equipped to have taken care of prisoners largely in excess of their own number.

In addition to the raids noted above and while they were in progress, on July 17, an attempt to land under cover of the fog was made at Zapadni rookery, 14 miles away from Northeast Point, by 3 boats containing probably 18 men from another schooner. Upon discovery the native guard at that point, consisting of only 2 men, at once opened fire and continued firing until the boats retreated and were lost in the fog. On July 16, the day previous, a schooner was observed so close to Otter Island, which is 8 miles from St. Paul and uninhabited, as to make it very probable that a landing was made there. As this island does not contain a breeding rookery and is frequented at this season by only a few male seals, no practical damage from a raid there could result. On August 8 this island was again visited by a schooner and three boats' crews were seen to land there.

While no further attempts were made to land on the island, sealing schooners were seen almost daily off St. Paul, sometimes close to shore. On quite a few occasions small boats were seen inside the 3-mile limit. On August 1, 2, and 3, during a dense fog, shotgun firing from small boats was heard continuously close to land. An occasional lifting of the fog would show the presence of both schooners and small boats close to the rookeries. On August 23 seven schooners were visible from the island at one time. From their action it would appear that the schooners took advantage of every foggy day to approach quite close to the island, while on clear days they kept outside the territorial 3-mile limit.

The 12 prisoners captured on St. Paul were taken to Unalaska by the U. S. S. *McCulloch*, and, after being left there a week in the custody of the United States deputy marshal while the revenue cutter took coal and returned to the island, were again taken aboard and transported to Kodiak, where they were formally committed before United States Commissioner Kelsey. They were sent thence by the mail steamer *Dora* to Valdez, where they were indicted. Five of the prisoners pleaded guilty of having killed seals. Six others were convicted of an attempt to kill seals, while the remaining prisoner, after a trial in which the jury failed to agree, pleaded guilty to the charge of killing seals, and all were sentenced by United States District Judge Royal A. Gunnison to three months' imprisonment in the United States jail at Valdez. At the expiration of their sentences all the prisoners were deported to Japan.

Notwithstanding the presence of so many Japanese schooners in the close vicinity of the islands, no actual attempts were made by them to raid the rookeries on St. George Island. One schooner, however, after having approached the St. George village landing the previous day, sent several boats ashore on September 5 at Garden Cove. Upon discovery Agent Chichester and a native guard proceeded to the cove and found only one man from the schooner ashore. On the approach of Agent Chichester's party this man, a Japanese, hailed the ship, which was close inshore, asking the captain of the schooner to come to the beach. The latter, in a small boat manned by three sailors, came ashore in response to the hail, and all were placed under arrest, with the man already ashore. The captain stated to Mr.

Chichester that previous to this several of his boats had landed and taken water and ballast from the shore to the schooner.

These prisoners were taken by the revenue cutter *Perry* to Unalaska and thence by the *Dora* to Valdez. Upon arrival there, and after examination of prisoners and witnesses by the United States attorney, they were released for the reason that that portion of the Revised Statutes which they violated (sec. 1959), which forbids landing on the islands without a permit, unfortunately carried no penalty other than summary removal from the islands.

It is the fixed belief of both Agents Chichester and Clark, who were present on the island and supervised the capture of these prisoners, that had the vessel been allowed to remain undisturbed and her crew permitted to land on the island at will, a serious raid on the rookeries would have resulted. The boats from this schooner landed within 2 miles of East rookery and 3 miles of Zapadni rookery, both of which contained large numbers of breeding seals.

Aside from the determined raids made upon the breeding rookeries themselves, the continued killing of seals around the islands during the summer within a few miles of where they breed caused an immense loss of seal life. Falling, as it does, on a herd already depleted to a minimum, there is little question that another year or two of such killing will result in the commercial extermination of the species.

Incomplete returns from Victoria show that the spring catch of that fleet was 1,439 skins. I have not at hand at the present time any official statement showing what was the Canadian summer catch in Bering Sea. Their catch, however, can be best judged by the report of the London trade sales this winter, which show that 20,216 Pribilof sealskins, known to the trade as "Northwest coast" skins, were offered for sale by the Canadian sealing company. A rough estimate made by the consular agent at Hakodate places the Japanese summer catch from the Pribilof herd at 7,000. This latter estimate undoubtedly is too low, but, accepting these figures as complete, it would show the pelagic catch from the Pribilof herd for 1906 to have been 27,216, as opposed to a land catch by the lessee of only 14,476. This means that twice as many sealskins were taken in the water by pelagic hunters as were secured on land by the lessee under Government supervision. It indicates also that the "monopoly" enjoyed by the lessee of the sealing right on the Pribilofs in effect is merely nominal.

In contrasting the land and sea catches it must be remembered that, while the former represents the maximum of animals slain to secure the skins in the catch, the take of skins in the sea indicates on a fair average only one-fourth of the animals slain to secure it. Indeed, it was stated to Mr. Judge last summer by a Japanese castaway that 7 out of every 10 seals shot in the water sink before the boats reach them.

In a day's hunting a boat's crew probably fires on 10 seals for every one brought into the boat. Some of these are killed and immediately sink. Others are wounded, some superficially, others fatally. As the head of the seal, with its very thin skull, is usually the only portion of the animal exposed when the hunter fires, and as all sealers use heavy buckshot, it is more than probable that if the animal is shot and escapes it has received a dangerous or a fatal wound.

An instance in support of this came under my notice this summer. At Northeast Point on the morning of July 17 the watchmen heard almost incessant shotgun firing in the fog very close to shore. After this had continued for some minutes one of the boats landed and was captured. It contained the body of only one seal. Had all of the shots fired resulted in the capture of a seal the boat would have been swamped.

Aside from the great loss in seals which are shot and not recoverable, it must be remembered that nearly 80 per cent of all seals taken in Bering Sea are pregnant females having nursing pups ashore, which die of starvation after the loss of the mother. The death of each pregnant female, therefore, means the loss of three lives to the herd, in addition to the great waste incident to the nonrecovery of seals shot in the water, which has just been referred to.

In view of the facts just mentioned, it may fairly be believed that the catch of 27,216 skins by the pelagic fleets in 1907 represents a loss to the herd of upward of 75,000 animals. They show that to secure 27,000 skins on land only that number of animals need be killed, and they surplus males which can be spared without injury, while to secure 27,000 skins in the water practically 75,000 animals must be slaughtered. Stronger proof of the destructiveness of this practice and of the certainty and rapidity with which it reduces the herd can not be given.

The unexpected loss of so many breeding seals from the herd this summer shows plainly the necessity for speedy action on the part of this Government if it would preserve from extinction this valuable and interesting species. Since 1870 this Government has received as revenue from the royalty on sealskins the sum of $9,022,070.42. Under the present contract with the North American Commercial Co. it receives $10.22½ for each sealskin taken and shipped from the islands. With pelagic sealing abolished, it is estimated that in 10 years thereafter the Government will receive in royalty the sum of at least $250,000 per annum, which will be increased as the seals become more plentiful, with a strong probability that even during the period mentioned the income will be greater than stated. Even with the herd in its present depleted condition, the Government will receive for the 14,476 skins taken in 1906 the sum of $148,017.10.

Aside from the commercial aspect of the situation, there is the higher one of preserving from extinction this most interesting species of wild animals. From a humane standpoint, if from no other, this Government should exert every effort to save to the world the fur seal, which otherwise will be numbered soon among the buffalo and other practically extinct species.

The preservation and increase of the seal herd can be accomplished only by the stoppage of pelagic sealing. The most drastic measures to preserve and increase the seals will be ineffective so long as this practice continues. In view of the wanton waste of life which attends the hunting in the open sea, it would seem that this Government may at any time properly request the cooperation of other nations with the purpose of obtaining a cessation of the practice.

As the result of overtures made by this Government to the Government of Great Britain, a tribunal of arbitration was convened at Paris in 1892, which made an award commonly known as the Paris

award. This award embodied regulations which prescribed a zone of 60 miles around the Pribilof Islands in which pelagic sealing was prohibited altogether, and a closed season from May 1 to July 31 of each year, during which seal hunting in the sea was to be discontinued by both nations. The award also forbids the use of firearms in Bering Sea and provides for a reopening of the question by mutual consent at the end of five years.

Experience has shown that the 60-mile zone around the islands is wholly ineffective in protecting the breeding females from slaughter as they pass to and from the islands to their feeding grounds, as the females have been ascertained to go at least 150 miles to the southward of the islands to feed. While these regulations undoubtedly have had the effect of checking in a measure the rate of destruction, they have been wholly ineffective in preventing the steady decrease in the numbers of the herd, which is the cause of this Government's anxiety in the matter. An effort to reopen the question before the High Joint Commission in 1897 was frustrated by the intervention of the Alaska boundary dispute.

At the time this award was made the United States and Great Britain were the only nations whose vessels engaged in pelagic sealing. Since that time the United States, by act of Congress, has forbidden her citizens to hunt seals in the water. Since that time, however, the subjects of Japan, aided by a substantial subsidy from their Government, have begun killing seals at sea and have followed it up with increasing vigor until now their fleet numbers 30 vessels, twice as many as now compose the Canadian fleet. These Japanese hunters, being unhampered by any regulation of their methods of killing seals in the water, absolutely nullify any beneficial effect the Paris award regulations may have had prior to the advent of the Japanese as a factor in pelagic sealing.

It can be seen, therefore, that notwithstanding the efforts of this Government to obtain some satisfactory settlement of this question along diplomatic lines no agreement has been reached and the reduction of the seal herd has continued steadily. It must be remembered also that the Paris award, inadequate as it has been shown to be, binds only this country and Great Britain, and is ineffective as regards Japan or any other nation.

Considering the steady decrease in the seal herd, which has occurred each year since the commencement of pelagic sealing, together with the futility of the measures provided by the Paris award and the unusual and deadly menace involved in the operations of the Japanese pelagic fleet during the past summer, I urgently recommend that strong efforts be made to secure the abandonment of the practice of pelagic sealing through international agreement, which at least shall bind all nations having seaports on the Pacific.

ROOKERY NUMBERS.

The numbers painted in 1897 on rocks by the surveying party of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, to mark the approximate boundaries of the various rookeries on the islands, have been renewed from year to year by the agents and are perfectly preserved at the present time. It is a fact, however, owing to the contraction of the area occupied by a fast diminishing herd, that these numbers

serve little or no purpose in enumerations of seal life at the present time. On rookery stretches lying under abrupt cliffs, where at any time little expansion was possible, the numbers approach closely to the breeding seals at the present time, provided the beach is occupied by seals at all. But on the flat areas, which in populous times gave place to the vast herd that thronged the rookeries, the shrinkage has been so great that the painted numbers are now nowhere near the seals. This is specially true of the Reef, Zapadni, and Tolstoi. On Zapadni, in particular, these numbers are so far back that a person standing near the seals as they are to-day would have great difficulty in locating the numbers, which in 1897 were placed to mark the rookery space occupied. Notwithstanding this, these numbers have been carefully preserved, and will serve, if for no other purpose, to show approximately the limits of the breeding rookeries at the time when the numbers were first located.

The same may be said also of certain arbitrary marks and crosses painted on rocks by Mr. C. H. Townsend when making investigations on the islands under the United States Fish Commission. These crosses and other marks are carefully renewed with white paint each spring.

There are certain rookeries on both islands the harems on which have to be counted from the cliffs above. As only portions of the rookery can be viewed at one time, it was formerly difficult in moving from place to place on the cliffs to determine the point where the previous count had ended and where the next count should begin. This has been simplified by dividing the rookery space into sections by means of broad lines painted in white on the rocks. By counting the seals in each section separately no confusion is encountered, and the count thereby is made accurate. Tolstoi and Tolstoi Cliffs rookeries on St. Paul and East rookery on St. George have been so treated.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ROOKERIES.

In 1906, as in 1905, the rookeries were photographed[1] by myself on St. Paul and by Mr. Chichester on St. George. To make these photographs of the most value they were taken wherever possible from the same stations as those taken by Townsend and Miller in 1895, thereby allowing a comparison to be made of the aspect of the rookeries at that time with that of the present day, after a lapse of 11 years.

In view of my early departure from the islands last summer, as a result of the Japanese rai l, Mr. Judge completed the photographing of St. Paul by making exposures on Reef, Gorbatch, Ardiguen, and Zapadni.

The seal rookeries are now so much smaller that photographs taken from the stations used by Messrs. Townsend and Miller in 1895 give an inadequate idea of the present breeding grounds. Mr. Chichester on St. George has established a number of new stations, from which to better show the condition of the rookeries to-day. On St. Paul also, wherever possible, new stations were selected for the same reason.

[1] Photographs not printed.

NATIVE CENSUS.

The censuses taken on both islands June 30, 1906, show 168 native residents on St. Paul and 91 on St. George, or a total of 259 for both islands. This represents a net increase during the year of 4 individuals for St. Paul and 2 for St. George. On St. Paul there were 10 births and 6 deaths and on St. George there were 6 births, 2 deaths, and 2 removals to the Jesse Lee Home, at Unalaska. The detailed censuses are herewith submitted as exhibits.

NATIVES' EARNINGS.

On St. Paul there was divided among the native sealers at the close of the season of 1906, for taking 12,536 sealskins, at 75 cents each, the sum of $9,402. On St. George, for taking 1,940 sealskins in 1906, the natives received $1,455, and for taking 456 blue-fox skins, at $5 each, and 11 white-fox skins, at $1 each, the sum of $2,291. No fox skins were taken on St. Paul. These amounts were available for natives' support during the past winter and were disbursable by means of orders drawn on the company by the Government agents for necessary supplies to the native families.

GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION.

In addition to the amounts already detailed as available for natives' support from their earnings in taking skins, the Government appropriation of $19,500 for the fiscal year 1907 was apportioned to the two islands, at the rate of $8,500 for St. Paul and $5,300 for St. George. The remainder of the appropriation, namely, $5,700, was reserved for the purchase of 285 tons of coal, to be delivered in June, 1907.

PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACT BY LESSEE.

During the past year the lessee satisfactorily performed the obligations of its contract with the Government. Schools with competent teachers were maintained on both islands for the native children during eight months of the year. A physician and medical supplies were also furnished on each island during the entire year without cost to the natives. Such widows and orphans and aged and infirm persons as were unable to provide for themselves were furnished with the necessaries of life in sufficient quantity by the lessee, which also provided dwellings for the entire native population and kept the same in repair, and furnished such quantity of salt salmon, salt, and barrels for preserving meat as were required by the natives. It also delivered the 80 tons of coal called for by the contract.

FOXES.

The fox catch on St. George during the past winter, amounting to 456 blues and 11 whites, was a gratifying increase over the number taken the previous winter, namely, 258 blues and 10 whites. During the past several years great attention has been paid by the Government agents on St. George to the feeding of foxes, every effort being made to furnish them with as large a supply of food as possible.

This undoubtedly has had the effect of increasing the number of animals in the herd and, as well, the number in the catch. A report by Agent Chichester, who had charge of St. George last winter, may be found appended as an exhibit, in which the condition of the fox herd on that island is gone into in detail.

On St. Paul an increased number of foxes was noted on the island during the past summer and the winter previous. It would seem from this that the foxes on St. Paul are gradually recovering from the effects of the disastrous epidemic which occurred several years ago, in which almost all the foxes on St. Paul and a large number on St. George perished. It is possible that during the winter of 1906–7 a small number of foxes will be taken on St. Paul by Agent Judge.

DAILY FIELD NOTES.

During the past summer Agent Judge and myself kept, as usual, a daily record of our observations of seal life. In the belief that this may be of some value in arriving at a correct understanding of the present conditions on St. Paul Island, a transcript of such is subjoined to this report. It must be remembered that these notes were not made for the purpose of publication, but for our own use, and were hastily jotted down without amplification.[1]

I desire to express my great appreciation of the services of the natives in guarding the rookeries and in repelling raids on the same during the past summer. None could have been more faithful or determined in performing that service. The agents of the lessee also rendered assistance by furnishing their teams gratis in transporting the guard from place to place, and by providing medical attendance, houses, and provisions for the prisoners during their stay on the islands.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

[1] The daily field notes were submitted as Exhibit 1 to the report, but were omitted in printing.

EXHIBIT 2.—*Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1906.*

Rookeries.	Date.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.					Number of seals killed by lessees for skins.						Aggregate.		
		Large young seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Skins rejected.		Accepted (prime).	Rejected.				Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
					Undersize.	Cut.		Undersize.	Cut.	Oversize.	For other reasons (bitten).				
	1905.														
On hand in salt house	Aug. 16	281	281	281									281		281
Reef	Oct. 20	152	152	151		1							151	1	152
Do	Oct. 23	155	155	153		2							153	2	155
Reef and Tolstoi	Nov. 2	175	175	171		4							171	4	175
Northeast Point	Nov. 7	378	378	378									378		378
Reef	Nov. 16	115	115	112	1	2							112	3	115
Do	Nov. 29	195	195	186		9							186	9	195
Watchmen Northeast Point	Nov. 14	6	6	6									6		6
	1906.														
Sea Lion Rock	May 13	28	28	28									28		28
Do	May 25	154	154	149		5							149	5	154
Watchmen Northeast Point	May 31	8	8	8									8		8
Zapadni	June 4	54	54	54									54		54
Do	June 23						175	1		7		183	175	8	183
Northeast Point	June 25						466	1		1		468	466	2	468
Reef	June 27						452	2	3			457	452	5	457
Zapadni	June 28						475		4	9		488	475	13	488
Polovina	June 29						161	5	1			167	161	6	167
Northeast Point	June 30						549	17				566	549	17	566
Tolstoi	July 2						113	1				114	113	1	114
Reef	...do...						464	1	3	2		470	464	6	470
Zapadni	July 3						14					14	14		14
Polovina	July 5						36					36	36		36
Northeast Point	July 6						819	23	5	1		848	819	29	848
Reef and Gorbatch	July 7						406	2	4			412	406	6	412
Zapadni	July 9						712	1	3	1	2	719	712	7	719
Northeast Point	July 11						668		1		1	670	668	2	670
Reef and Gorbatch	July 13						822	5	9			836	822	14	836
Zapadni	July 14						462	1	1			464	462	2	464
Polovina	July 15						27					27	27		27
Northeast Point	July 16						247		1			248	247	1	248
Tolstoi	July 17						112	1				113	112	1	113
Reef	July 19						387	3	2			392	387	5	392
Zapadni	July 20						301	1				302	301	1	302
Northeast Point	July 22						395					395	395		395

Northeast Point (killed by Japanese raiders)	do						63					63	63		63
Reef and Gorbatch	July 24						475	6		2		483	475	8	483
Zapadni	July 25						293	3				296	293	3	296
Northeast Point	July 27						564	1				565	564	1	565
Reef and Gorbatch	July 28						421	4				425	421	4	425
Tolstoi	do						118	4				122	118	4	122
Zapadni	July 30						316					316	316		316
Northeast Point	July 31						246					246	246		246
Polovina	do						37					37	37		37
Total		1,701	1,701	1,677	1	23	10,796	83	37	23	3	10,942	12,473	170	12,643

NOTE.—The skins marked "rejected" because over or under size will be held on the island subject to the department's order. Those marked "feleeted" because "cut" or "bitten" form part of the quota the same as if marked "accepted." The total number to be shipped is 12,536.—JAMES JUDGE, *Assistant Agent Seal Islands, in Charge St. Paul Island,*

EXHIBIT 3.—*Statistics of killings, St. Paul, season of 1906.*

Rookeries.	Date.	Killed.	Number dismissed.						Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Not branded.		New brands.		1904 brands.			
			Small.	Large.	Two years.	Three years.	Four years.	Five years.		
	1906.									
Zapadni	June 23	183	37	61	1	26	2	4	314	58
Northeast Point	June 25	468	86	176	1	4	16	15	766	61
Reef	June 27	457	72	179	185	85	3	3	984	46
Zapadni	June 28	488	122	136	110	58	.....	4	918	53
Halfway Point	June 29	167	9	51	11	9	2	.....	249	67
Northeast Point	June 30	566	97	163	20	15	14	8	883	63
Tolstoi	July 2	114	34	42	4	1	1	.....	196	58
Reef	...do....	471	107	70	42	33	.....	3	726	64
Zapadni	July 3	14	5	4	3	1	.....	.....	27	51
Polovina	July 5	36	1	30	2	1	.....	5	75	48
Northeast Point	July 6	847	256	77	32	15	2	1	1,230	68
Reef	July 7	412	135	31	39	22	3	2	644	63
Zapadni	July 9	719	184	50	52	30	1	2	1,038	69
Northeast Point	July 11	670	243	34	32	14	.....	2	995	67
Reef and Gorbatch	July 13	836	212	37	85	59	4	2	1,235	67
Zapadni	July 14	464	150	31	54	28	1	.....	728	63
Halfway Point	July 15	27	5	5	3	2	.....	.....	42	64
Northeast Point	July 16	248	110	8	4	12	.....	.....	382	65
Tolstoi	July 17	113	19	32	7	11	1	3	186	60
Reef	July 19	392	163	45	50	36	.....	.....	686	57
Zapadni	July 20	302	67	36	25	22	1	.....	453	66
Northeast Point	July 22	395	203	18	11	20	5	4	656	60
Northeast Point (killed by Japanese July 17, 1904)	...do....	63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Reef and Gorbatch	July 24	483	456	52	51	44	9	6	1,101	43
Zapadni	July 25	296	248	61	46	29	3	.....	683	43
Northeast Point	July 27	565	347	111	42	20	6	4	1,095	51
Reef and Gorbatch	July 28	425	278	37	42	45	2	.....	829	51
Tolstoi	...do....	122	46	17	17	12	.....	.....	214	57
Zapadni	July 30	316	189	42	34	22	.....	1	604	52
Northeast Point	July 31	246	89	52	5	9	.....	2	403	61
Polovina	...do....	37	10	19	2	8	.....	.....	76	48
Total	.....	10,942	3,980	1,707	1,012	693	76	71	18,411	59

EXHIBIT 4.—*Classification of large seals dismissed, St. Paul, season of 1906.*

Rookeries.	Date.	Four years.	Five years.	Six years.	Seven years.	Eight and over.	Total.
	1906.						
Zapadni	June 23	20	17	21	3	.....	61
Northeast Point	June 25	87	43	32	14	.....	176
Reef	June 27	115	41	22	.....	1	179
Zapadni	June 28	98	24	10	4	.....	136
Halfway Point	June 29	27	17	7	.....	.....	51
Northeast Point	June 30	100	30	22	11	.....	163
Tolstoi	July 2	21	8	3	10	.....	42
Reef	...do....	42	20	3	5	.....	70
Zapadni	July 3	.....	.....	1	3	.....	4
Polovina	July 5	12	11	6	1	.....	30
Northeast Point	July 6	52	8	12	5	.....	77
Reef	July 7	23	4	4	.....	.....	31
Zapadni	July 9	36	6	7	1	.....	50
Northeast Point	July 11	24	7	3	.....	.....	34
Reef	July 13	28	1	5	2	1	37
Zapadni	July 14	26	4	1	.....	.....	31
Halfway Point	July 15	3	1	1	.....	.....	5
Northeast Point	July 16	6	1	1	.....	.....	8
Tolstoi	July 17	20	6	6	.....	.....	32
Reef	July 19	24	8	6	.....	7	45
Zapadni	July 20	23	11	2	.....	.....	36
Northeast Point	July 22	16	2	.....	.....	.....	18
Reef and Gorbatch	July 24	31	15	.....	1	5	52
Zapadni	July 25	37	20	4	.....	.....	61
Northeast Point	July 27	46	20	22	12	11	111
Reef and Gorbatch	July 28	18	13	4	.....	2	37
Tolstoi	...do....	8	5	1	.....	3	17
Zapadni	July 30	25	13	4	.....	.....	42
Northeast Point	July 31	27	14	3	.....	8	52
Polovina	...do....	6	13	.....	.....	.....	19
Total	.....	1,001	383	213	72	38	1,707

EXHIBIT 5.—*Counts of breeding rookeries, St. Paul, season of 1906.*

AMPHITHEATER OF KETOVI.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.
May 14	1				June 23	6	3	2	2
23	2				25	7	1	5	6
June 6	5				26	7	1	5	9
7	5				27	8		7	16
9	6				30	8		7	37
11	6	1			July 2	8	1	7	58
12	6	1			4	8		8	104
13	7				6	9	1	9	145
15	4	3			8	9		9	173
17	5	3			11	9	1	9	201
19	5	2			13	7	1	7	176
21	6	2	1	1	23	10		10	104

LUKANIN.

May 8	1				June 21	37	2	9	13
14	5				23	34	5	14	31
23	14				25	36	3	13	58
June 6	32				26	35	1	15	88
7	32				27	36	3	18	111
9	33	2			30	35	4	21	226
11	35	1			July 2	36	2	26	273
12	35	1	1	1	4	37	2	31	487
13	33	2			6	36	2	32	674
15	33	2	1	1	8	36	2	32	849
17	35	2	3	3	11	38		35	921
19	37	2	5	6	13	38	2	36	855

KETOVI, EXCLUSIVE OF AMPHITHEATER.

May 23	4				June 25	33	3	21	37
June 6	26				26	35	2	27	49
7	27				27	36	1	28	85
9	24	9			30	37	1	30	180
11	24	9			July 2	35	7	31	281
12	24	9			4	37	4	27	434
13	25	8			6	39	6	34	651
15	22	12			8	41	5	35	846
17	26	8			11	45	4	40	1,028
19	28	3	1	1	13	43	3	40	950
21	29	7	8	8	23	46	2	44	765
23	27	9	12	16					

LAGOON.

June 11	15	4			July 3	19	4	13	177
14	15	3			9	23		20	365
17	18	2			12	23	1	23	450
27	19	2	11	42	14	22	1	21	440

TOLSTOI.

May 2	2				June 14	90		6	6
4	1				17	99	1	13	18
20	9				July 12	105		104	
June 11	85	1			14	112		112	

TOLSTOI CLIFFS.

June 11	23	3			July 3	32	2	26	384
14	24	4			12	33	2	32	812
17	26	2	2	2	14	34	1	32	788
27	32	1	23	105					

EXHIBIT 5.—*Counts of breeding rookeries, St. Paul, season of 1906*—Continued.

LITTLE ZAPADNI.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.
May 2	2				June 10	59	5		
5	4				21	62	5	18	35
8	4				28	64	3	36	
15	7				July 14	81		78	
20	25								

ZAPADNI.

May 4	2				June 4			1	1
5	5				10	103	5	2	2
8	10				23	127	2	44	
15	15				July 14	169	3	162	
20	30								

ZAPADNI REEF.

May 20	6				July 1	14	1	10	67
June 10	11	3			9	13		12	225
21	14	1	3	3	14	14		14	254

GORBATCH CLIFFS.

June 9	7				June 27	8		6	15
13	7	1	1	1	July 1	6	1	8	47
16	7	1	1	1	4	7		7	90
17	7	1	1	1	6	7	1	8	97
21	7				13	8		7	145
22	6	1	1	1	23	7		7	
26	7		4	8					

GORBATCH.

May 6	1				June 13	80	6	5	5
8	4				16	81	7	6	6
17	27				17	85	3	6	6
20	35				21	87	4	27	41
June 5	80	6			22	90	3	35	
8	81	2			July 13	111	1	109	
9	71	8							

REEF.

May 2	2				June 8	132		1	1
6	1				9	92	[1] 1		
8	7				15	179	13	5	5
13	26				22	190	11	53	
20	48	5			July 13	206	13	201	
June 6	130								

POLOVINA.

May 31	39				June 20	38	6	10	20
June 11	38	5	1	1	29	39	4	21	
15	34	5	3	3	July 13	40	2	38	

POLOVINA CLIFFS.

June 11	17	5			July 5	23		21	251
15	16	8			13	27	3	26	655
28	20	4	15	45					

[1] From Reef Point to Mass at No. 18.

EXHIBIT 5.—*Counts of breeding rookeries, St. Paul, season of 1906*—Continued.

LITTLE POLOVINA.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.	Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.
May 31	5				June 28	10		5	60
June 11	8				July 5	10		9	246
15	6	2	1	1	13	12	1	12	441

NORTHEAST POINT.

May 5	1				June 25	249	17	127	
20	82				July 16	305	10	296	
31	173								

NORTHEAST POINT, EAST SIDE.

June 25	13	1	3	3	July 10	15	1	15	217
29	13	2	9	15	16	16	1	16	
July 5	14	2	13	92					

SEA LION ROCK.

May 5	3	7			May 13	5			
6	19				June 21	54		15	

NORTHEAST POINT, WEST SIDE.

June 25	15	2	9	9	July 10	21	1	21	680
29	18	1	17	87	16	21		21	
July 5	20	1	18	339					

ARDIGUEN.

May 8	1				June 21	11	2	4	6
20	2				22	11	2	5	10
June 6	10				26	13		8	41
8	11				27	13		8	43
9	10				July 1	12		9	105
13	11	2			4	14		12	180
15	11				6	14		12	231
16	11	1	1	1	13	14		14	336
17	12				23	14		14	

EXHIBIT 6.—*Counts of harems, St. Paul, 1906.*

Date.	Rookery.	Bulls.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.
July 13	Gorbatch Cliffs	8	7	1	
13	Gorbatch	111	109	2	1
13	Ardiguen	14	14		
13	Reef	206	201	5	13
13	Ketovi	43	40	3	3
13	Amphitheater	7	7		1
13	Lukanin	38	36	2	2
13	Little Polovina	12	12		1
13	Polovina Cliffs	27	26	1	3
13	Polovina	46	38	2	2
14	Zapadni	169	162	7	3
14	Little Zapadni	81	78	3	
14	Zapadni Reef	14	14		
14	Tolstoi	112	112		
14	Tolstoi Cliffs	34	32	2	1
14	Lagoon	23	21	2	1
16	Northeast Point	305	296	9	10
	Total	1,244	1,205	39	41

EXHIBIT 7.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *July 27, 1906.*

DEAR MR. JUDGE: In view of the fact that several schooners are hanging off the islands, I suggest that the count of dead pups and other counts required by the regulations be made without disturbing the rookeries any more than is necessary. Under no circumstances do I think the cows should be driven off the rookeries.

Respectfully,

EDWIN W. SIMS.

EXHIBIT 8.—*Census of dead pup seals, St. Paul Island, Alaska, 1905.*

Date of count.	Rookery.	Dead pups.	Remarks.
Oct. 17	Ketovi and Lukanin	143	
17	Lagoon	15	
19	Polovina	65	
19	Polovina Cliffs	45	
19	Little Polovina	8	
24	Gorbatch	153	
24	Ardiguen	13	
25	The Reef	407	Rainy.
25	Tolstoi	365	Light rain.
26	Zapadni	200	
26	Little Zapadni	147	
26	Zapadni Reef	14	
27	Northeast Point	473	
	Total	2,048	

Respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, in Charge.

EXHIBIT 9.—*Native census, St. Paul Island, Alaska, year ended June 30, 1906.*

No. of family.	Name.	Family relation.	Age.	Birthplace.	Date of birth.
1	Bogodanof, Nicoli	Husband	34	St. George	
	Bogodanof, Uleta	Wife	39	do	
	Bogodanoff, Agrifina	Niece	9	St. Paul	June 30, 1897
2	Burdukofsky, Apollen	Father	53	Unalaska	June 5, 1853
	Burdukofsky, Peter	Son	27	St. Paul	Nov. 22, 1897
3	Buterin, Karp	Husband	52	do	
	Buterin, Parascovia	Wife	50	Unalaska	
	Buterin, Constantine	Son	20	St. Paul	June 2, 1886
	Mazeekin, Wassilisai	Adopted daughter	11	do	Feb. 10, 1895
4	Fratis, John	Husband	20	do	June 14, 1886
	Fratis, Sandulia	Wife	16	do	Nov. 15, 1890
	Fratis, Gabriel	Son	3 mos.	do	Apr. 7, 1906
5	Galaktionef, Alexander	Husband	34	Atka	
	Galaktionef, Lukeria	Wife	29	St. Paul	Jan. 1, 1877
	Galaktionef, Mary	Daughter	4	do	May 29, 1902
	Galaktionef, Matrona	do	3	do	Oct. 17, 1903
	Hanson, Anna	Stepdaughter	6	do	Aug. 14, 1900
6	Gromof, Nicoli	Husband	38	Attu	
	Gromof, Oulianna	Wife	36	St. Paul	
	Stepetin, Pavla	Adopted daughter	14	do	June 28, 1892
	Volkof, Tecan	Orphan	13	do	June 12, 1893
	Stepetin, Elary, jr	Adopted son	5	do	July 24, 1901
7	Kochutin, Jacob	Husband	54	do	
	Kochutin, Alexandra	Wife	44	Unalaska	
	Kochutin, Larion	Son	13	St. Paul	Mar. 8, 1893
	Mandrigan, Innokenty	Orphan	14	do	
	Mandrigan, Nekifer	do	10	do	Feb. 18, 1896
8	Koshevnikof, Paul	Husband	22	do	
	Koshevnikof, Mary	Wife	32	St. George	Apr. 17, 1874
	Koshevnikof, Constantine	Son	1	St. Paul	Feb. 4, 1905
9	Kochutin, John	Husband	35	do	
	Kochutin, Claudia	Wife	26	St. George	
	Kochutin, Nikanor	Son	5	St. Paul	Aug. 11, 1901
	Kochutin, Erena	Daughter	3	do	May 14, 1903
	Vickilof, Alexander	Stepson	8	do	Sept 2, 1897

EXHIBIT 9.—*Native census, St. Paul Island, Alaska, year ended June 30, 1906*—Con.

No. of family.	Name.	Family relation.	Age.	Birthplace.	Date of birth.
10	Kochutin, Trefan	Widower	20	St. Paul	Oct. 17, 1885
11	Kochergin, George	Husband	28	do	Oct. 12, 1877
	Kochergin, Agafia	Wife	26	do	
	Emanof, Mary	Cousin	15	do	June 14, 1891
	Tetof, Peter	Adopted son	4	do	Mar. 24, 1902
12	Kozlof, Michael	Son	20	do	Sept 24, 1885
	Kozlof, Parascovia	Mother	47	Unalaska	
	Serebrinikof, Ripsimia	Cousin	13	St. Paul	Oct. 10, 1892
13	Kozlof, Nicoli	Husband	18	do	Mar. 22, 1888
	Kozlof, Alexandra	Wife	25	do	Jan. 20, 1881
14	Krukof, John	Husband	26	do	Dec. 28, 1880
	Krukof, Uleta	Wife	22	do	July 25, 1884
	Krukof, Alexandra	Daughter	Inf.	do	May 27, 1906
	Diakanof, Andrew	Stepson	12	do	
15	Krukof, Nicoli	Husband	55	Sitka	
	Krukof, Catherine	Wife	45	Kamschatka	
	Krukof, Eustinia	Daughter	16	St. Paul	Oct. 15, 1889
	Emanof, Alexia	Nephew	8	do	
16	Krukof, Metrofan	Husband	23	do	
	Krukof, Pelegia	Wife	18	St. George	
	Philimonof, Fekla	Sister-in-law	11	do	
17	Kushin, Michael	Husband	21	St. Paul	Nov. 21, 1884
	Kushin, Matrona	Wife	15	do	Nov. 27, 1891
	Kushin, Nestor	Nephew	13	do	Nov. 7, 1892
	Hanson, John	do	10	do	Apr. 7, 1896
	Kushin, Oulianna	Daughter	6 mos.	do	Dec. 24, 1905
18	Hopof, Nekita	Bachelor	18	do	Sept. 27, 1888
	Kushin, Mary	Widow	51	St. George	
19	Melovidov, Alexander	Husband	31	St. Paul	Sept. 2, 1874
	Melovidov, Salome	Wife	30	do	Aug. 15, 1875
	Melovidov, Anton	Son	12	do	Dec. 13, 1893
	Melovidov, Alexandra	Daughter	4	do	Feb. 13, 1902
	Melovidov, Alfai	Son	3	do	June 13, 1903
20	Melovidov, Simeon	Husband	38	do	
	Melovidov, Alexandra	Wife	38	Akutan	
	Melovidov, Margaret	Daughter	14	St. Paul	Mar. 18, 1892
	Melovidov, Christopher	Son	12	do	Aug. 11, 1894
	Melovidov, Alexander	do	10	do	May 28, 1896
	Melovidov, Simeon, jr	do	7	do	June 7, 1899
21	Merculieff, Alexander	Husband	30	do	Aug. 27, 1875
	Merculieff, Agafia	Wife	28	do	May 9, 1878
	Merculieff, Paul	Son	11	do	July 4, 1894
	Merculieff, Auxenia	Daughter	10	do	Apr. 27, 1896
	Merculieff, Terenty	Son	3	do	Apr. 22, 1903
	Merculieff, Dorafay	do	1	do	Feb. 22, 1905
	Merculieff, Paul	Brother	16		Mar. 11, 1890
22	Merculieff, John	Husband	20	St. Paul	
	Merculieff, Avdotia	Wife	33	St. Michael	
	Merculieff, Serefima	Daughter	2	St. Paul	Aug. 10, 1904
23	Nozekof, Simeon	Husband	29	Unalaska	
	Nozekof, Ardotia	Wife	31	St. Paul	
	Nozekof, Mary	Daughter	8	do	Mar. 20, 1898
	Kozeroff, Ivanally	Half brother	18	do	July 14, 1888
	Kozeroff, Alexandra	Half sister	13	do	Feb. 9, 1893
24	Orloff, J. E. (Rev.)	Father	48	Sitka	
	Orloff, Nadia	Daughter	14	do	
	Orloff, Olga	do	16	do	
	Orloff, Nicoli	Son	12	do	
	Orloff, Alexandra	Daughter	9	do	
	Nederazof, Catherine	Housekeeper	48	do	
25	Pankof, Parfiri	Father	43	St. Paul	
	Pankof, Martha	Daughter	8	do	May 12, 1898
	Pankof, Vlass	Son	18	do	Feb. 21, 1888
	Pankof, Mary	Daughter-in-law	19	do	July 31, 1886
26	Rookovishnekof, Stepan	Husband	25	do	Jan. 22, 1881
	Rookovishnekof, Elizabeth	Wife	19	do	June 28, 1887
	Rookovishnekof, Andrew	Son	1	do	July 17, 1905
27	Sedick, Theodore	Father	58	do	
	Sedick, Innokenty	Son	21	do	Oct. 4, 1884
	Sedick, John	do	9	do	Apr. 11, 1897
	Kochuten, Karp	Grandson	1	do	Aug. 25, 1905
	Kochuten, Mary	Daughter	19	do	July 13, 1886
	Kochuten, Theodore	Son-in-law	18	do	Mar. 1, 1888
28	Shabolin, Necon	Husband	39	do	
	Shabolin, Fekla	Wife	36	St. George	
	Shabolin, Varvara	Daughter	8	St. Paul	Jan. 18, 1898
	Shabolin, Matrona	do	6	do	Apr. 11, 1900
	Shabolin, Daniel	Son	3	do	Dec. 23, 1902
29	Stepetin, Dorafay	Husband	35	do	
	Stepetin, Luboff	Wife	30	do	
	Stepetin, Chionia	Daughter	11	do	Dec. 9, 1895
	Stepetin, Auxenia	do	7	do	Feb. 6, 1899
	Stepetin, Helena	do	1	do	May 14, 1905

EXHIBIT 9.—*Native census, St. Paul Island, Alaska, year ended June 30, 1906*—Con.

No. of family.	Name.	Family relation.	Age.	Birthplace.	Date of birth.
30	Stepetin, Elary	Husband	42	St. Paul	
	Stepetin, Anna	Wife	35	Unalaska	
	Stepetin, Agnes	Daughter	10	St. Paul	Feb. 1, 1896
	Stepetin, Nicoli	Son	3	do	May 21, 1903
	Stepetin, Mark	do	Inf.	do	May 8, 1906
31	Stepetin, John	Husband	27	do	July 6, 1879
	Stepetin, Vera	Wife	26	do	June 16, 1880
	Stepetin, Vassili	Son	5	do	Jan. 10, 1902
	Stepetin, Larion	do	2	do	Nov. 3, 1904
	Stepetin, Vassili	Nephew	13	do	Feb. 8, 1893
32	Shaisnakof, George	Husband	24	do	Apr. 23, 1882
	Shaisnakof, Oulianna	Wife	18	do	Nov. 1, 1888
	Shaisnakof, Sergius	Son	1	do	Nov. 30, 1905
33	Tetoff, Neon	Husband	36	do	Sept. 14, 1869
	Tetoff, Agrifina	Wife	31	Unalaska	June 23, 1885
	Tetoff, Mary	Daughter	10	St. Paul	Jan. 6, 1896
	Tetoff, Demetri	Son	8	do	Nov. 6, 1897
	Tetoff, Irena	Daughter	6	do	Mar. 29, 1900
	Tetoff, Agrifina	do	4	do	June 14, 1902
	Tetoff, John	Son	2	do	May 12, 1904
34	Tetoff, Peter	Husband	41	do	
	Tetoff, Mary	Wife	45	St. George	
	Kochuten, Varvara	Adopted daughter	9	St. Paul	Dec. 17, 1896
35	Tetoff, Zachar	Husband	27	do	May 21, 1879
	Tetoff, Daria	Wife	26	St. George	Mar. 31, 1880
	Tetoff, Paul	Son	1	St. Paul	June 5, 1905
36	Krukof, Condrat	do	16	do	Mar. 22, 1890
	Krukof, Feotesta	Mother	40	do	
37	Mazeekin, John	Bachelor	17	do	Sept. 26, 1889
	Seduli, Elizabeth	Widow	65	Unalaska	
	Stepetin, Marina	Daughter of John	8	St. Paul	Mar. 17, 1898
	WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.				
38	Kochutin, Zenobia	Mother	38	do	
	Kochutin, Innokenty	Son	3	do	Dec. 7, 1902
	Kochutin, Mark	Nephew	11	do	Nov. 4, 1894
39	Krukof, Anna	Widow	40	do	
	Krukof, Mary	Daughter	9	do	
40	Emanof, Mary	Widow	28	Atka	
	Emanof, Eneka	Son	5	St. Paul	Nov. 1, 1901
	Emanof, Peter	do	3	do	Oct. 11, 1903
41	Peeshnekof, Wassalisia	Widow	46	do	
42	Artomonof, Alexandra	do	52	St. Michael	
	Vikilof, Alexandra	Adopted daughter	11	St. Paul	
43	Balakshin, Matrona	Widow	56	do	
	Shaposhnikof, Parascovia	Spinster	39	do	
	Rookovishnekof, Parascovia	Niece	17		Mar. 23, 1889
44	Frates, Akalina	Widow	32	Unalaska	
	Frates, Agrafina	Daughter	15	St. Paul	June 13, 1891
	Frates, Simeon	Son	12	do	Feb. 15, 1894
	Frates, Oulianna	Daughter	10	do	Jan. 13, 1896
	Frates, Martha	do	7	do	Feb. 19, 1899

RECAPITULATION.

Males	85
Females	83
Native population June 30, 1905	164
Births during year ended June 30, 1906	10
Total	174
Deaths during year ended June 30, 1906	6
Native population June 30, 1906	168

EXHIBIT 10.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *April 30, 1906.*

Mr. W. C. ALLIS,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

DEAR SIR: I herewith submit to you the following school report for the eight months commencing September 4, 1905, and ending April 30, 1906, both inclusive:

Pupils' names.	Age.	Days present.	Days absent (excused on account of sickness).	Times tardy.	Reading.	Spelling.	Arithmetic.	Writing.	Geography.	Grammar.	United States history.
Fifth reader.	*Yrs.*										
Ludmilla Melovidov	14	153	.....	.....	3	3	3	3	2	2	
Olga Orloff	16	145	8	.....	2	2	3	3	2	1	3
Nadia Orloff	14	142	11	.....	3	3	3	3	2	1	3
Fourth reader.											
Pavla Stepetin	14	148	5	.....	2	2	2	3	1	0	2
Agraphina Fratis	14	133	20	.....	2	3	2	3	2	.....	.....
Third reader.											
Simeon Fratis	12	150	3	.....	2	3	2	2	2	.....	.....
Christopher Melovidov	12	153	.....	.....	2	2	3	2	2	.....	.....
Anton Melovidov	12	152	1	.....	2	3	3	2	2	.....	.....
Nestor Kushin	14	147	6	.....	2	3	2	2	2	.....	.....
Second reader.											
Oulianna Fratis	10	147	6	.....	3	2	2	3	.....	.....	.....
Alexandra Kozeroff	15	153	.....	15	2	2	2	3	.....	.....	.....
Repsemia Seerebrinikoff	14	152	1	7	2	2	2	3	.....	.....	.....
Larion Kotchooten	14	152	1	5	2	3	2	2	.....	.....	.....
Nicholai Orloff	12	150	3	.....	3	3	3	2	.....	.....	.....
Andrew Diakanoff	12	153	.....	.....	3	3	2	2	.....	.....	.....
Nekifar Mandregan	11	149	4	5	3	3	2	2	.....	.....	.....
First reader.											
Alexander Melovidov	10	153	.....	.....	3	3	3	2	.....	.....	.....
Paul Merculieff	13	152	1	.....	2	1	0	2	.....	.....	.....
Vassely Stepetin	14	153	.....	8	3	0	0	1	.....	.....	.....
John Hansson	11	153	.....	.....	3	2	3	2	.....	.....	.....
Mark Kotchooten	12	151	2	10	3	1	0	2	.....	.....	.....
Agnia Stepetin	10	152	1	.....	2	2	2	3	.....	.....	.....
Alexandra Vekoloff	12	149	4	10	3	2	3	2	.....	.....	.....
First primer.											
Vassa Meezekin	12	153	.....	7	1	0	0	2	.....	.....	.....
Auxenia Merculieff	11	152	1	.....	1	0	0	2	.....	.....	.....
Mary Tetoff	11	151	2	8	3	0	3	2	.....	.....	.....
Mary Emanoff	15	148	5	3	2	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Second primer.											
Chionia Stepetin	11	153	.....	5	3	0	3	2	.....	.....	.....
Feocla Philimonoff	11	153	.....	2	3	0	2	2	.....	.....	.....
Mary Krukoff	10	151	2	.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Agraphina Bogdanoff	10	144	9	.....	3	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Mavra Pankoff	9	139	14	.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Varvara Kotchooten	10	147	6	.....	3	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Alexandra Orloff	7	148	5	.....	3	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
Simeon Melovidov	7	153	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Alexia Emanoff	8	149	4	.....	3	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
John Sedick	10	152	1	.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Third primer.											
Martha Fratis	7	142	11	.....	2	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
Varvara Shabolin	8	125	28	.....	3	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Auxenia Stepetin	8	150	3	.....	3	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Marina Stepetin	8	144	9	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Demetry Tetoff	9	153	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	0	.....	.....	.....
Alexander Vikoloff	9	148	5	.....	0	.....	.....	0	.....	.....	.....
Innokenty Mandregan	15	152	1	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Techan Volkoff	14	153	.....	.....	0	.....	.....	0	.....	.....	.....
Total	.....	6,702	183	85	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

The characters of the pupils' recitations marked thus: Good, 3; medium or fair, 2; poor, 1; very poor, 0.

General summary.

Pupils enrolled (males 20, females 25)	45
Average daily attendance	$43\frac{11}{51}$
Average daily absences (excused on account of sickness)	$1\frac{10}{51}$
Average per cent of attendance	97+
Average age of pupils	$11\frac{1}{3}$
Cases of tardiness	85
Days of school	153
Weeks of school	$30\frac{3}{5}$
Holidays	13
Days Christmas vacation	5
Number of classes	8
Pupils in—	
Reading	45
Writing	45
Spelling	29
Arithmetic	29
Geography	9
Grammar	4
United States history	4

The following is the statement of time of tuition and study throughout eight months: 9 o'clock a. m., calling the roll, 5 minutes; arithmetic, 30 minutes; spelling, 20 minutes; fifth reader, 20 minutes; fourth reader, 15 minutes; slate work, 15 minutes; recess, 15 minutes; third reader, 20 minutes; second reader, 35 minutes; calisthenics, 15 minutes. 1 o'clock p. m., calling the roll, 5 minutes; first reader, 25 minutes; primer classes, 50 minutes; slate work, 40 minutes. Monday and Wednesday, geography and drawing; Tuesday and Thursday, penmanship and grammar; Friday, United States history, singing, and reviews.

Names of textbooks used: Baldwin's and McGuffy's readers and spellers, Robinson's and White's arithmetics, Cornell's geography, Swinton's first lessons in United States history, Swinton's language primer, California vertical copy books.

Respectfully,

SIMEON A. MELOVIDOV, *Teacher.*

EXHIBIT 11.—*Division of natives' earnings, St. Paul Island, Alaska, season of 1906.*

By 12,536 fur-seal skins, at 75 cents		$9,402.00
To 23 first-class shares, at $252.75	$5,813.25	
To 11 second-class shares, at $202.20	2,224.20	
To 5 third-class shares, at $151.65	758.25	
To 5 fourth-class shares, at $101.25	506.25	
To 2 special-class shares	100.05	
		9,402.00

First-class shares, 23 men, at $252.75, as follows:

Alex. Melovidov.	George Kochergin.
Karp Buterin.	John Kochutin.
Jacob Kochutin.	Alex. Merculieff.
Nicoli Krukoff.	Parfiri Pankoff.
Simeon Melovidov.	Elary Stepetin.
Simeon Nozekoff.	Neon Tetoff.
Theo. Sedick.	J. E. Orloff.
Dorafay Stepetin.	John Krukoff.
John Stepetin.	George Shaisnekoff.
Apollon Burdukofsky.	Peter Tetoff.
Nicoli Bogodanoff.	Necon Shabolin.
Zachar Tetoff.	

Second-class shares, 11 men, at $202.20, as follows:

Peter Burdukofsky.	Paul Koshevnikoff.
Nicoli Gromoff.	Michael Kozloff.
Michael Kushin.	John Fratis.
Innokenty Sedick.	Metrofan Krukoff.
Stepan Rookavishnikoff.	John Merculieff.
Trefan Kochutin.	

Third-class shares, 5 men, at $151.65, as follows:
Alex. Galaktioneff.
Constantine Buterin.
Vlass Pankoff.
Nicoli Kozloff.
Theo. Kochutin.
Fourth-class shares, 5 men, at $101.25, as follows:
Ivanally Kozeroff.
Nekita Hopoff.
John Mazeekin.
Condrat Krukoff.
Paul Merculieff.
Special-class shares, 2 men, as follows:
Karp Buterin, first chief..... $50.05
Alex. Merculieff, second chief..... 50.00

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 8, 1906.*

I hereby certify that the above division was made by me, in the manner detailed above, after conference with the representative of the North American Commercial Co. and the native chiefs on this island.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 8, 1906.*

I hereby certify that the amounts as above stated, representing the division on St. Paul Island for the season of 1906, will be placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By J. C. REDPATH, *Agent.*

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 8, 1906.*

We hereby approve the division for St. Paul Island, for the season of 1906, as detailed above, for and on behalf of the natives of said island.

KARP BUTERIN, *First Chief.*
NICOLI GROMOFF, *Acting Second Chief.*

EXHIBIT 12.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 14, 1906.

This is to certify that 12,536 fur sealskins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

Shipper's load and count.
A. DONALDSON, *Master Steamer "Homer."*

EXHIBIT 13.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 1, 1906.*

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Special Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor,
in Charge of the Seal Islands.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my report on the condition of affairs on St. George Island from August 14, 1905, to the present date.

After the departure of the company's vessel *W. H. Kruger* August 14, 1905, the U. S. S. *Manning* called here three times, August 17, 26, and September 6, and the U. S. S. *Bear*, on her way out from the Arctic, August 29, and again on October 7, making a special trip from Dutch Harbor to bring mail, since which time we have seen no vessels of any kind.

On the second trip of the *Manning* I sent the two little orphans—Alexandria and Stepanida Oustegof—to the Jesse Lee Home at Unalaska, Capt. Fengar kindly giving them passage.

Shortly before dark on the 3d of October a schooner was sighted passing the west end of the island. The guard at Zapadni telephoned that she was heading in for that place. With an armed guard I immediately went over, arriving after dark. The

natives reported her at anchor in the bay. Patrolled the rookery all night, but there was no attempt to raid, and when day dawned there was no vessel in sight.

During the winter a part of a boat and considerable wreckage marked S. S. *Corwin* came ashore at Zapadni.

School.—School opened on September 1 and was maintained for the period of eight months. Fourteen boys and 11 girls were in attendance. Mr. Edson, the teacher, carried on the school in a satisfactory manner. His report is inclosed herewith.

Dead pups.—At the usual time in the fall I went carefully over the rookeries in search of dead pups, but none were found. The foxes eat them as fast as they die.

Seals.—The 300 seals allowed the natives of this island for food during the fall were obtained. One hundred and thirty-three were secured the first drive, which was made on the 19th of October. Among the seals in this drive were 20 of those reserved last summer for breeding purposes, whose heads still bore evidences of clipping. The punch mark which I placed on the hind flipper of every seal branded last summer aided us in recognizing some of these seals, but in a great many instances nature had so obliterated the mark in the process of repair that a very minute examination was required to tell whether the flipper had been punched or not, and in some cases it was impossible to tell at all with certainty. Wherever there was any doubt the seal was allowed to go. I think had the punch been smaller, cutting out a small round hole instead of a half moon, the results would have been more satisfactory.

Stock raising.—Last summer the natives requested that they be allowed to purchase some pigs with a view to stock raising. As the plan, if successful, might result in obtaining a regular supply of much needed fresh meat for the people, as an experiment they were allowed to purchase 4—3 sows and a boar, the company kindly furnishing them at cost price. During the summer a snug warm sod house was built for them, and I have been agreeably surprised at the really excellent care the natives have bestowed upon them throughout the entire winter. During the fall a large quantity of dry grass was cut and stored for bedding and slops from the different houses furnished the food supply. The whole 4 came through the winter in good shape and have now increased to 13, with still 1 more sow to be heard from.

Improvements.—A small addition to the Government house has been built to hold the entire year's supply of coal, and with the aid of the company's donkey engine it can be filled in a very short time, thus doing away with the necessity of having to carry coal up the long hill on the backs of men at intervals during the winter.

The natives finished the interior of their clubhouse, which they were unable to do last year on account of lack of lumber. The structure is now complete and has proved a great comfort to the people.

Roads have been repaired wherever it was necessary.

The lines painted on East rookery last year to aid in the counting of the seals have been repainted and improved upon.

General health.—The health of the native inhabitants has been exceptionally good. But 2 deaths have occurred, an adult of tubercular meningitis and a young infant of general debility. There have been 6 births—2 boys and 4 girls.

Foxing.—In accordance with the terms of the new lease I took entire charge of the feeding and trapping of foxes on this island.

Feeding.—At the beginning of the season the agent of the North American Commercial Co. turned over to me 22,851 pounds of dried salmon, which when soaked up weighed in the neighborhood of 38,000 pounds, and 650 pounds of salted salmon. This, in addition to the 338 seal carcasses put up during the sealing season, constituted the available food supply for eight months. In view of the shortage of food, I delayed feeding in the fall as long as it was possible, beginning October 1 instead of September 15, as is the rule, and I found it necessary to dole out the food sparingly throughout the entire winter in order that I should have enough to carry through, deeming that a small supply of food all winter was far better than full feeding for four or five months and then nothing for the rest of the time. Where the food supply is practically unlimited, as it was the winter of 1904–5, the generous method of feeding as laid down in the "Regulations" can be easily carried out, but with the small amount of food I had at my disposal this year to have adhered closely to the regulations would have resulted in leaving the foxes without food for a period of several months, and at a time, too, when feeding is most essential. It has been the practice for several years past to put the carcasses of the seals killed at Zapadni into a hole in the ground without salt and cover them up with dirt. This method resulted sometimes in saving as much as one-fifth of the amount of meat originally put up, but in most cases it all spoiled. As every pound of meat was needed, I salted all the carcasses of seals killed at Zapadni last summer, amounting in all to 118. In February I sent a number of butter barrels over on sledges, in which, during the months of March and April, the meat was freshened and fed to the foxes. It was all eaten. For a few days toward the end of November vast numbers

of sea quail gathered about the island. Patches containing an acre or more covered the surface of the water. Numbers of these birds drifted ashore and furnished many meals for the foxes.

Trapping.—The company's agent having advised me that after the 20th of November he would accept skins, I began the trapping on November 21, and continued to do so at frequent intervals until February 9, when killing was discontinued, the skins beginning to show signs of becoming stagey. Three trappings were made after February 9 for the purpose of ascertaining if there were still any unbranded foxes at large. The result was somewhat surprising, as 33 new ones were caught. They were branded and released.

Two regular traps were used—one located at the fox house on the beach, the other at the company's barn—and 65 different trappings were made during the season. The work began usually about 3.30 p. m. and continued until 9 or 10 p. m., and sometimes even later, depending somewhat on the number of foxes hanging about the trap. They were very erratic in entering the trap. At times they came in freely and apparently without fear; at others they were timid and would not come in at all. This was especially noticeable when the wind blew through the house into the trap, carrying the scent of the man who is operating the drop. With a hope of doing away with the man-operating trap, I devised one which was sprung and reset automatically by the fox. While it was perfect in its working and proved a valuable aid in the foxing operations, I am sorry to say it did not accomplish the object for which it was built. For some reason, which I was unable to discover, this form of trap never caught more than 8 foxes in a single night, and its usual number was 1 or 2. Three of these machines were installed, 1 at the Government boathouse, East Landing, 1 at the east end of the village, and 1 at the fox house. The one at East Landing did the best work, catching during the season 52 foxes. The other 2 traps caught 31 between them.

Three times during the season foxing gangs were sent to Zapadni, remaining a week each time. Seventy-four foxes were taken at this place. On the third trip the weather suddenly became very cold and the men nearly froze to death.

A number of foxes were also taken at various parts of the village by the natives using string traps.

The total number of foxes caught was 1,044; of these 463 were killed and 581 released for breeding purposes. The foxes turned away for breeders were in every instance the finest and largest of the catch, and with but few exceptions were personally selected by me after careful examination and weighing. Of those turned away at Zapadni, I of course had to rely on the natives to do the selecting, but they were instructed to brand only first-class animals of standard weight. As the animals they killed were all of more or less inferior quality, judging from the skins, I have good reason to suppose that my instructions were faithfully carried out.

The largest fox captured was an enormous female weighing 21¾ pounds. Her skin was dark in color, and she was, indeed, a magnificent animal.

The weather throughout the entire season was, on the whole, more favorable to the trapping of foxes than to the foxes themselves, for while the early winter was mild and there was but little rain or snow, the latter part was of great severity, and the month of May was ushered in by a blizzard that lasted three days, and covered everything deep with wet snow, which must have been very hard on any foxes born at that time.

Ice made its appearance on January 25 and remained three days. It did not return again until March 1, when it stayed nine days. Many foxes were observed wandering about over it.

Branding.—At Mr. Judge's suggestion all male foxes released for breeding purposes were branded at the tip of the tail and all females close to the body. It was hoped that these distinguishing marks might assist in throwing some light on the subject of whether or not the foxes pair off in the spring. The results were of small value. While these marks made it quite easy to tell at a glance the sex of any fox which had passed through our hands it offered no means by which individual foxes might be recognized. A male and female fox may be seen together for hours and both may enter the same hole, but there is no way of telling that the foxes you see in this same locality to-morrow are the same foxes that you see to-day.

It is a common sight in the spring to see foxes in pairs playing together. It was always supposed that such were male and female, and this fact has been used as an argument in favor of the pairing theory. In reality, these couples are just as likely to be 2 females or 2 males as male and female. The differential method of branding has shown this much at least.

During the whole of last summer I had an excellent opportunity for daily observing a family of foxes composed of a mother and 11 young ones whose home was under a small culvert within 50 feet of my window. One of the mother's forelegs was stiff

and useless and by this deformity could be easily recognized, even at a considerable distance. Never during the three months of my watching did I once see any other fox go under this culvert, bring food for the young or take any interest in them whatever, except their mother. Neither did I see any fox act toward this female in a manner that would indicate he was her mate.

From among the young males and females selected for breeding 50 of each sex were earmarked, a V-shaped section being taken from the left ear of each.

Of the number of foxes that remained unbranded at the close of foxing there is no way of knowing, but it is pretty certain that the number must be considerable, for an March 7 out of 17 foxes hanging about the fox house 7 were unbranded, and a fair proportion of those met with about the island bear no marks on their tails.

Dead foxes.—From August, 1905, to June, 1906, there have been picked up at various points about the island 23 dead foxes. Three met death by drowning, 1 was stoned to death by a small boy, 3 died of kidney disease, 1 of tuberculosis, and 3, probably, from eating salted salmon that had not been sufficiently freshened. What caused the death of the others is not known. Whenever it was practicable both Dr. Mills and myself autopsied the dead animals, but out of 16 such autopsies the cause of death in only 5 instances could be definitely ascertained. The extreme degree of emaciation exhibited by some of these dead foxes at once suggests starvation, but does not prove it, for emaciation may be the result of any one of half dozen different disorders. As foxes are afflicted with diseases of various kinds, tuberculosis, affections of the kidneys, intestinal worms, necrosis, and others, I have no doubt, of a more obscure character, it is a grave mistake to assume that all foxes, simply because they happen to be in poor flesh at the time of death, succumbed to starvation.

The importance of disease as a factor in the mortality among the foxes I believe has been greatly underestimated if not entirely overlooked.

Miscellaneous notes.—On my daily tramps about the island during the summer months I constantly observed that among the litters of young foxes met with there were a number of individuals that were part blue and part white. I counted as many as a dozen of these hybrids in different localities, yet after the month of September, with but one exception, when I saw one hanging about the field during a seal killing, I have never run across one of these animals. The only way that I can account for it is that as winter comes on their parti-colored coats become all white.

Before the skins were packed for shipment I went over the whole lot and classified them. I found there were 289 first class, good fur and good color; 144 second class, good fur, slightly off color; 23 third class, poor fur, poor color, of little value.

Examination of the bodies of foxes killed in trapping developed the peculiar and interesting fact that the 4-year-old and older foxes were almost without exception very fat. Many of these old foxes had not a tooth in their heads and yet were in prime condition. The yearlings were generally the poorest in flesh. I think this indicates that the older foxes are much more adept in the art of obtaining food than the young ones, and that a fox's ability to obtain a good living is not dependent on the condition of his teeth.

The young foxes are born in nests on top of the ground, where they remain for a short time; they are then taken into the burrow, the mother carrying them in her mouth just as a cat does her kittens.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor.

[Inclosure A.]

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *February 15, 1906.*

This is to certify that during the foxing season ended February 9, 1906, the resident agent of the Department of Commerce and Labor has offered me 468 blue and 12 white fox skins, and that, as agent of the North American Commercial Co., I have accepted 456 blue at $5 each and 11 white at $1 each, and rejected as defective and undesirable 12 blue and 1 white.

The money involved, which is hereby acknowledged as amounting to $2,291, will be entered as a credit on the books of this company in favor of the natives domiciled on this island, and shall be available for the support and maintenance of said natives as the agent of the Department of Commerce and Labor may direct.

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By J. A. LAKE, *Agent.*

[Inclosure B.]

Live weights of foxes killed on St. George Island, season of 1905–6.

Weight.	Male.	Female.	Weight.	Male.	Female.
Pounds.			*Pounds.*		
4	.....	1	9	30	11
4½	.....	1	9¼	12	1
5	.....	2	9½	13	7
5¼	4	4	9¾	1	1
5¾	1	3	10	9	5
6	5	21	10¼	1	.....
6¼	3	3	10½	3	1
6½	5	23	10¾	2	.....
6¾	6	7	11	5	1
7	12	49	11½	1	.....
7¼	6	29	11½	1	.....
7½	11	23	12	2	2
7¾	8	9	13	2	.....
8	29	25	13¾	1	.....
8¼	6	2	14	2	.....
8½	23	8			
8¾	14	6		218	245

Does not include the foxes found dead.

[Inclosure C.]

Live weights of foxes released for breeding on St. George Island, season of 1905–6.

Weight.	Male.	Female.	Weight.	Male.	Female.
Pounds.			*Pounds.*		
7½	.....	32	12¾	2	1
7¾	.....	11	13	12	7
8	.....	48	13¼	2	2
8¼	.....	25	13½	3	1
8½	.....	38	13¾	1	.....
8¾	.....	15	14	6	.....
9	.....	23	14½	2	1
9¼	.....	6	14¾	2	.....
9½	.....	23	15	4	1
9¾	19	7	15½	1	.....
10	64	19	15¾	1	.....
10¼	15	1	16	2	.....
10½	30	6	17	1	.....
10¾	16	4	17¼	2	.....
11	30	9	17½	1	.....
11¼	7	.....	20	1	.....
11½	16	8	20½	1	.....
11¾	2	2	21¾	.....	1
12	25	5			
12¼	1	2		279	302
12½	10	4			

[Inclosure D.]

Approximate ages of foxes killed on St. George Island, season of 1905–6.

	Male.	Female.
Young, or approximately 1 year old	75	107
Middle aged:		
2 years old	72	49
3 years old	33	31
Old, or over 3 years	47	66
Total	227	253

[Inclosure E.]

Approximate ages of foxes released for breeding on St. George Island, season of 1905–6.

	Male.	Female.
Young, or approximately 1 year old	52	107
Middle aged:		
2 years old	116	121
3 years old	103	70
Old, or over 3 years	8	4
Total	279	302

[Inclosure F.]

Fox division, season 1905–6, St. George Island, June 1, 1906.

By 456 blue-fox skins, at $5		$2,280.00
By 11 white-fox skins, at $1		11.00
To 12 first-class men, at $111.75	$1,341.00	
To 8 second-class men, at $89.35	714.80	
To 2 third-class men, at $67.10	134.20	
To 2 special-class men	65.00	
To material for native club, pig house, and waterworks	36.00	
Total	2,291.00	2,291.00

FIRST CLASS.

1. Stepan Lekanof	$111.75
2. Demetri Lestenkof	111.75
3. Mike Lestenkof	111.75
4. Nicoli Malavansky	111.75
5. George Merculif	111.75
6. Joseph Merculif	111.75
7. Nicoli Merculif	111.75
8. Andronic Philamonof	111.75
9. Gregory Philamonof	111.75
10. Simeon Philamonof	111.75
11. Peter Prokopief	111.75
12. Rev. Peter Kashavarof	111.75

SECOND CLASS.

1. Alexander Galanin	89.35
2. John Galanin	89.35
3. Walter Kashavarof	89.35
4. Peter Malavansky	89.35
5. Nicoli Nedarazof	89.35
6. Mike Shane	89.35
7. Gregory Swetzof	89.35
8. Manuel Zaharof	89.35

THIRD CLASS.

1. Marka Merculif	67.10
2. Demetri Philamonof	67.10

SPECIAL CLASS.

1. Stepan Lekanof, chief	35.00
2. Joseph Merculif, second chief	25.00
Joseph Merculif, hydrant keeper	5.00

The division as above made is bereby approved on behalf of the natives of this island.

STEPAN LEKANOFF, *First Chief.*
JOSEPH MERCULIEFF, *Second Chief.*

I certify that the amounts indicated herein have been placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.'

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By J. A. LAKE, *Agent.*

I certify that the above division was made by me after conference with the native chiefs.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Agent, United States Department of Commerce and Labor.

[Inclosure G.]

School report, 1906.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *April 30, 1906.*

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Special Agent, United States Department Commerce and Labor,
in Charge St. George Island, Alaska:

As required by the lease of the seal islands of Alaska, by the North American Commercial Co., a school for the native children of St. George Island has been maintained for eight months past, and instruction in the English language has been given to all children between the ages of 6 and 16 years.

The school was attended throughout the year by 25 pupils—14 boys and 11 girls—excepting absences of 25 days, as shown below.

The usual vacation of 10 days at Christmas, Thanksgiving Day, Washington's Birthday, and five "holy days" of the Russian Church has been observed.

Boys attending school		14
Girls attending school		11
Total		25
Weeks in school year		35
Days in school year		171
Holidays:		
Christmas recess	days	10
Thanksgiving Day	do	1
Washington's Birthday	do	1
Church	do	5
Total	do	17
School actually in session	do	154
Absences:		
Excused by Government agent		1
Excused by doctor		33
Unexcused		16
Total absences		50
Total days		25
Attendance for the year	days	3,825
Average daily attendance		$24\frac{129}{154}$

C. R. EDSON,
Teacher for North American Commercial Co.

[Inclosure H.]

Annual statement of foxes caught on St. George Island, season of 1905–6.

Date.	Location and style of trap.	Killed.				Released for breeders.	
		Blue.		White.		Blue.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1905.							
Aug. 25 to Nov. 20	Found dead	6	6				
20	Barn, regular	12	8	1	2	17	24
20	Fox house, regular	8	7			3	12
21	East Landing, automatic	1	1			1	1
22	do	1	2				
23	Fox house, regular	3	3				2
23	Barn, regular					2	
24	East Landing, automatic	1	1				
24	Fox house, automatic	1					
25	do		1				
25	East Landing, automatic	2					
26	Barn, automatic						2
26	Fox house, automatic						1
26	East Landing, automatic	1	1			3	3
27	Fox house, regular	6	8			7	12
27	Barn, regular	1	2			2	3
27	East Landing, automatic		1	1			1
28	do					1	
28	Fox house, automatic						1
29	Fox house, regular	6	7			6	15
29	Barn, regular	3	1		1	3	3
30	Fox house, automatic	1					1
Dec 1	Fox house, regular	6	2			4	8
1	Barn, regular	3	1			2	3
1	East Landing, automatic					1	2
1	Fox house, automatic	1				2	1
2	East Landing, automatic						1
2	Fox house, automatic	1	1				3
4	Village, automatic					2	
4	East Landing, automatic		1				
4	Fox house, regular	5	5		1	7	7
4	Barn, regular	4	3			3	2
5	East Landing, automatic	3	3			2	
6	Fox house, regular					1	1
6	Barn, regular					3	
6	Village, automatic						1
6	East Landing, automatic		1			2	
6	Found dead	1					
8	Fox-house, regular	2	1			1	
8	Barn, regular	2					2
8	East Landing, automatic	2					1
10	Fox house, regular	9	5			4	11
11	East Landing, automatic	1				1	
12	Fox house, automatic	1	1				1
12	do	9	5			5	5
12	Barn, regular	1	1			2	4
13	Fox house, automatic	1	1				
14	Fox house, regular	2	1			3	
15	Fox house, automatic		1				
15	East Landing, automatic						1
16	Fox house, automatic						2
11-16	Zapadni	15	14			16	13
17	East Landing, automatic	1					
17	Fox house, automatic		1				
17	Fox house, regular	2			1	3	2
17	Barn, regular	1	1				
18	Village	2	4			4	6
18	Fox house, regular					2	1
18	Barn, regular	2				1	
19	East Landing, automatic		1				
19	Village	1	2				6
19	Fox house, automatic	1					1
20	Village	4	2			9	9
20	Fox house, regular	6	5			2	5
21	East Landing, automatic					1	1
21	Village	3	1			6	5
21	Fox house, regular	1	2	1			2
22	Village, automatic	1					1
22	East Landing, automatic	1					1
22	Village	4				3	3

Annual statement of foxes caught on St. George Island, season of 1905–6—Continued.

Date.	Location and style of trap.	Killed.				Released for breeders.	
		Blue.		White.		Blue.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1905.							
Dec. 23	Found dead	1					
23	Fox house, automatic						1
25	do					1	
18-23	Zapadni	5	3	1		4	3
18	Found dead, Zapadni			1			
26	Village	3				3	5
26	Fox house, regular	2	2			2	5
26	Barn, regular		1			3	
27	Village	1	2			1	3
28	Fox house, regular	7	9			14	16
28	Barn, regular	1				2	
29	Village	1	1	1		4	5
29	Fox house, regular	5	5			6	7
31	do	4	4			4	3
31	Barn, regular		1				1
1906.							
Jan. 2	Village	1	1			3	5
2	Fox house, regular	1	5				2
2	Barn, regular	3				1	1
3	Village		2			1	1
4	Fox house, regular	1	6			6	3
4	Barn, regular	1	1			3	1
5	Fox house, regular	2	4			2	5
5	Barn, regular		1		1	1	
9	Fox, regular		2			4	
11	Fox house, regular		5			2	5
12	Village		1			2	3
15	do		1			2	
15	Found dead		1				
17	Fox house, regular					6	1
17	Barn, regular					1	
19	Fox house, regular		3			4	2
21	Village		3			4	2
21	Fox house, regular	3	10			11	5
22	do		2			2	
24	do		1			2	
25	Zapadni		1				
26	Village		4			2	3
26	Fox house, regular		2			3	1
26	Barn, regular					1	
28	Fox house, regular	4	5			4	1
28	Barn, regular		5			2	
29	Fox house, regular	2	6			2	
30	do	1					
31	do		1				
Feb. 1	do	3	1			1	
1	Barn, regular	4	1				
2	Fox house, regular		1			3	
4	do		1				
5	do	2	4				
6	Village					1	
7	Fox house, regular	1	10			1	1
8	do	4	9			2	
9	do	6	3			4	
11	do					6	4
12	Found dead		1				
14	Fox house, regular					3	8
16	do					6	6
Mar. 19	Found dead	1					
	Total	222	247	6	6	279	302

Exhibit 14.

St. George Island, Alaska, *August 5, 1906.*

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations on this island from June 8, 1906, to date:

Branding of bachelors.—The first drive for branding was made at Zapadni on June 14, and 14 three-year-olds, 4 two-year-olds, and 11 four-year-olds were marked and liberated.

From this date to June 30 drives for branding were made from the various rookeries as often as the number of seals thereon would warrant, and the quota secured. In addition to the 200 three-year-olds and 200 two-year-olds branded we marked 58 four-year-olds. This was done to prevent accidental clubbing. Sheep shears only were used in the branding and no trouble was experienced, either in handling the seals or in clipping them after they had been secured. None died during the operations. During the summer the lessee killed 5 of the seals branded this year and to make this loss good I branded 5 more.

A summary of the branding is as follows:

Date.	Rookery.	Two-year.	Three-year.	Four-year.
June 14	Zapadni	4	14	11
16	Staraya Artel and North	46	44	.....
21	.....do	68	70	21
22	Zapadni	19	36	19
25	Staraya Artel, East, and North	63	23	4
30	.....do	.....	13	3
	Total	200	200	58
	Killed by lessee during summer	2	3	.....
		198	197	.....
July 16	Staraya Artel and East	2	3	.....
	Total	200	200	58

Drives.—During the summer the lessee made 14 drives and obtained 1,685 skins. This includes 3 drives for branding, from which the lessee was allowed to take 95 seals in order that the natives should have a necessary supply of fresh meat. In the fall of 1905 and spring of the present year 315 seals were killed by me for native food. Adding these skins to the 1,685 taken by the lessee this summer the quota of 2,000 allowed this island is filled.

Weight of skins.—All sealskins taken on this island during the season just closed have been weighed by me personally.

Until July 6 but few under or over weight skins were taken by the lessee, but on that date in a drive from North and Staraya Artel rookeries 14 seals having skins weighing less than 5 pounds were killed. I at once brought the matter to the attention of the lessee's agent, Dr. Noyes, protesting against the killing of these small seals. I also wrote him the letter a copy of which is herewith attached as Exhibit A. On July 21 a killing of 211 seals was made. On weighing in the skins I found that there were 22 underweight. Again I vigorously protested against the killing of this class of seals. In subsequent killings no underweight skins were taken.

Of the 1,685 skins obtained by the lessee this season, 55 weigh less than 5 pounds and 5 over 8½ pounds. In accordance with instructions contained in departmental letters dated March 9 and May 12, 1906, I have forbidden the shipment of these skins from the island and hold same subject to further orders from the department.

A summary in detail of the weights for this island is submitted as Exhibit B.

Seals dismissed from drives.—The total number of seals dismissed this summer from the various drives was 1,729. Of these 747 were small, 621 branded this year, 344 large, 9 branded on head with iron, and 8 branded across back with iron. A classification of the large seals released will be found in the summary submitted herewith as Exhibit C.

In the drives made on June 21 and 25 there appeared a young bull with a large T brand across his back. As this form of brand was used only in 1899, this bull must be just 7 years old. On July 12 we found him at the water's edge near No. 17 North rookery, where he had established himself on the flank of a large harem presided over by 3 large bulls, and although they attacked and handled him pretty roughly from time to time they could not drive him away. On July 20 he had hauled out on the terrace back of his first location and had appropriated 11 cows from the large harem already mentioned. On July 29 when we counted pups we found him still in place, but with a considerably larger number of cows.

It has been noted by both Maj. Clark and myself that seals which have been branded across the back with a hot iron are generally smaller than unbranded seals of the same age. This seems to be borne out by the fact that two 3-year-old bachelors killed this year, both of which were branded across the back, yielded skins weighing but 5 pounds each.

Percentage of seals killed.—The total number of seals driven on this island during the killing season was 3,260. Of these, 1,685, or 51 per cent, were killed.

The statistics of killings is submitted as Exhibit D.

Counts of seals.—A large number of harem counts were made by Maj. Clark and myself during the summer. The results of this work is appended as Exhibit E.

At the height of the season counts of all the bulls on the island were made. The results are as follows:

Count of bulls, St. George Island, 1906.

Rookery.	Bulls with harems.	Idle bulls, stationed.	Quitters.	Total.
North	78	3	3	81
Staraya Artel	26	.....	2	26
Zapadni	34	3	3	37
East Cliffs	34	2	3	36
East Reef	16	.....	2	16
Little East	8	.....	.....	8
Total	196	8	13	204

Comparing this with the counts made last year, it will be seen that there is a decrease of 62 harems on this island. The decrease in the idle bulls is quite as startling. Last year there were 22 idle bulls in place on the rookeries. This year there are but 8—a loss of 63 per cent.

Of all the rookeries Little East shows the greatest falling off. Last year there were on this rookery 16 harems, 298 cows, and 415 pups. This year there are but 8 harems, 161 cows, and 239 pups.

Counts of pups.—The annual counts of live pups were made on July 29, 31, and August 1, and the results are as follows:

Date.	Rookery.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Dead cows.
July 29	North	3,749	105	3
29	Staraya Artel	1,958	48	.....
31	East Cliffs	2,040	29	1
31	East Reef	967	12	.....
31	Little East	238	1	.....
Aug. 1	Zapadni	2,281	29	1
	Total	11,233	224	5

By reason of the broken character of the ground on East Cliffs and North rookeries it is impossible to make a very accurate count of the pups thereon. Whenever it was possible the pups were pulled out of the holes and from under the rocks, but there were places where they could not be reached, and I have no doubt that some were overlooked.

A comparison of the counts of this year with those of last show a decrease of 1,495 pups on this island.

The average harem, based on the count of live pups, is 58.4.

Rookery photographs.—Photographs of the rookeries from the various stations, old and new, have been taken. I have made two sets of Velox prints from the negatives; one set I transmit herewith to you, the other is on file in this office. The negatives have been carefully packed and shipped to you at Washington.

Native earnings.—The earnings of the natives of this island for the season of 1906 are as follows:

456 blue-fox skins, at $5 each, and 11 white-fox skins, at $1 each	$2,291
1,940 sealskins, at 75 cents each	1,455
Total	3,746

A copy of the fox division I handed you in June. A copy of the seal division is herewith submitted as Exhibit F.

Expenditures, Government appropriation.—During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1906, I expended for native maintenance the sum of $5,219.65 from the amount of the Government appropriation allotted this island and have forwarded to the department vouchers for that amount.

Change in prices.—I have been advised by the agent of the company of a change in price of the following commodities: Potatoes, from 3 cents per pound to 3½ cents per pound; smoking tobacco, from 6 cents per ounce to 7½ cents per ounce; mustard and pepper, from 5 cents per ounce to 3¾ cents per ounce.

The quality of the smoking tobacco furnished this year is superior to that of last year.

Schooners.—On July 6 a schooner flying the flag of the Argentine Republic appeared off the village and then changing her course skirted the shore to the eastward, disappearing behind East Point. Several hours later she was again sighted headed to the northward. No attempt at landing by her was made. Armed guards were stationed on all the rookeries on this side of the island. The day following I rehabilitated the old guardhouse at East rookery and have maintained a watch there ever since. This schooner was easily within 2 miles of the land from the time she was sighted until she passed East Point.

On July 26 a schooner sighted off East rookery. She was hull down and did not come nearer.

On August 4 a Japanese schooner came within 400 yards of the village landing, dipped her flag, and bore away toward East rookery. This schooner I have made the subject of a special report.

In view of the concerted raid on St. Paul by the sealers this summer and our own experience with them here, I would strongly urge that more guns and ammunition be furnished this island. Also telephone material sufficient to connect East and Staraya Artel rookeries with Government house. Our present armament consists of 6 modern rifles and 6 old Springfields, with about 300 rounds of ammunition for each. There are a few rifles among the natives, but they are mostly old and of little use. At least 20 more "Krags" are needed. The following amount of telephone material will be necessary to carry out the suggestion made above: Six miles galvanized telephone wire, 300 glass insulators with wooden brackets, 200 feet insulated copper wire, 3 sets telephone receivers and transmitters, and 1 dozen dry batteries.

Under the supposition that this material will be furnished, I shall at once collect such driftwood as I can find on the beaches that will be suitable for posts and construct the line. This done it will be but a day's work to string the wire.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, in Charge St. George.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *July 6, 1906.*

Dr. L. A. NOYES,
Agent North American Commercial Co., St. George Island, Alaska.

SIR: I beg to call to your attention the fact that in the killing made by you to-day of seals driven from East, Staraya Artel, and North rookeries there were 14 skins varying in weight from 4 to 4¾ pounds. As the killing of seals of this class is a direct violation of section 8 of departmental instructions dated March 9, 1906, regulating the taking of seals on the Pribilof Islands, which provides that "no seals shall be killed having skins weighing less than 5 pounds or more than 8½ pounds," I have to request that in future killings you adopt such measures as will insure the taking of only such skins the weights of which will be within the limits set by the department.

Very truly, yours,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor,
in Charge of St. George Island.

[Inclosure 1.]

EXHIBIT B.—*Weights of sealskins taken on St. George Island, season of 1905–6.*

Date.	Rookery.	Weights (pounds).										
		3	4¼	4½	4¾	5	5¼	5½	5¾	6	6¼	6½
1905.												
Oct. 19	East	1			1	1	1	19	16	22	15	19
19	Zapadni							3	1	1		2
27	Staraya Artel, North, and East.							11	4	1	4	3
31	Zapadni					1	3	18	14	4	7	3
Nov. 7	Staraya Artel									1		
8	Zapadni							1	10	1	2	3
13	do									1		1
16	East									1		
26	Staraya Artel and North						1	6	8	3	2	1
1906.								1	1	1		
May 30	Zapadni											
June 8	do							2				
11	North			1		2	1	3	3	5		3
14	Zapadni									1		
16 21	Staraya Artel and North				1	4	4	2	2	6	5	8
	Died on drive									1		1
22	Zapadni							2		1		
25	Staraya Artel, North, and East.							2	3	2	6	5
27	Zapadni					4	9	14	10	17	3	7
30	Staraya Artel and East				2	15	20	20	15	33	17	35
July 5	Zapadni				3	7	2	12	4	13	5	10
6	Staraya Artel, North, and East.		3	4	7	12	13	33	25	50	16	30
10	do				6	14	29	32	25	49	9	40
12	Zapadni				1	2	3	9	1	13	3	8
16	Staraya Artel and East	3½			1	6	19	12	18	25	19	28
19	Zapadni				4	17	10	8	4	13	5	3
21	Staraya Artel and East	1	5	9	7	38	25	35	25	30	5	12
25	Staraya Artel, East, and North.					6	5	15	18	37	4	25
27	Zapadni						1		2	1		
28	North					1	4	3	4	8	1	3
	Total	2	8	14	33	130	150	266	213	341	128	250

Date.	Rookery.	Weights (pounds).										
		6¾	7	7¼	7½	7¾	8	8½	8½	8¾	9	9½
1905.												
Oct. 19	East	13	12	4	2	5	2					
27	Staraya Artel, North, and East.	2	4									
Nov. 7	Staraya Artel	3	3	1	1				1			
16	East	8	12	4								
		2	1									
1906.												
une 11	North	1	2				1					
14	Zapadni					1			1			
16 21	Staraya Artel and North	2	1	5	4		1					
	Died on drive	1		1								
25	Staraya Artel, North, and East.		3	5	2			1	1	1		
27	Zapadni	3	6		2		2		1			
30	Staraya Artel and East	5	20	12	15	1	2	2	3		1	1
July 5	Zapadni	3	8		1			2		1		
6	Staraya Artel, North, and East.	14	26	3	6		2	2	1			
10	do	9	21	11	8	1	3					
12	Zapadni		5	2	1	1						
16	Staraya Artel and East	15	17	7	9	3	6	3	3		1	
19	Zapadni	1	3		2	1	1		1			
21	Staraya Artel and East	5	8	1	1		2		2			
25	Staraya Artel, East, and North.	8	19	3	8	1	5		2		1	
27	Zapadni	1			1							
28	North	1	2									
	Total	97	173	59	63	14	27	10	16	2	3	1

In addition to these there is the skin of one seal which died on the drive. It weighs 14¼ pounds.

[Inclosure 2.]

EXHIBIT C.—*Seals released from drives, St. George Island, season of 1906.*

Date.	Rookery.	Small.	Bulls.	Brand this year.	Brand across back.	Brand on head (iron).	Age.			
							4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	7 years.
1905.										
Oct. 19	East	419	9	20	.....	.....	46	16	4	.....
27	Staraya Artel and North	157	.....	3	.....	.....	7	2	.....	.....
	Total	576	9	23	.....	.....	53	28	4	.....
1906.										
June 11	North	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	3	.....	.....
14	Zapadni	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	4	3	.....	.....
16	North	.....	.....	3	.....	3	24	3	2	.....
21	Staraya Artel and North	.....	.....	24	1	3	20	26	22	2
22	Zapadni	3	.....	18	.....	1	11	10	4	.....
25	Staraya Artel and East	14	.....	56	2	.....	12	4	8	3
27	Zapadni	.....	2	46	.....	.....	15	9	15	3
30	Staraya Artel and East	25	2	143	.....	.....	25	11	5	2
July 5	Zapadni	17	.....	29	.....	.....	3	2	4	.....
6	Staraya Artel, East, and North	42	.....	42	.....	.....	10	.....	2	1
10	.....do	85	.....	59	2	.....	14	3	2	2
12	Zapadni	17	.....	27	.....	.....	5	.....	1	.....
16	Staraya Artel and East	69	.....	32	.....	.....	5	1	1	.....
19	Zapadni	33	.....	43	.....	.....	5	3	1	.....
21	Staraya Artel and East	163	.....	52	2	.....	4	5	.....	.....
25	Staraya Artel, East, and North	250	.....	44	.....	.....	1	6	1	.....
27	North and Zapadni	29	.....	3	1	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
	Total	747	4	621	8	9	170	89	68	13

[Inclosure 3.]

EXHIBIT D.—*Statistics of killings, St. George Island, 1906.*

Date.	Rookery.	Animals killed.	Dismissed.					Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Large.	Small.	Brand this year.	Brand on back (iron).	Brand on head (iron).		
1905.									
June 11	North	22	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	64
16	Staraya Artel and North	45	29	.....	3	.....	3	80	56
25	Staraya Artel, North, and East	31	27	14	56	2	.....	130	23
27	Zapadni	78	44	.....	46	.....	.....	168	46
30	Staraya Artel, East, and North	219	45	25	143	.....	.....	432	50
July 5	Zapadni	71	9	17	29	.....	.....	126	56
6	Staraya Artel, East, and North	247	13	42	42	.....	.....	344	71
10	.....do	257	23	85	59	.....	.....	424	60
12	Zapadni	49	6	17	27	.....	.....	99	49
16	Staraya Artel and East	192	7	69	32	.....	.....	300	64
19	Zapadni	73	9	33	43	.....	.....	158	46
21	Staraya Artel and East	211	9	163	52	2	.....	437	48
25	Staraya Artel, East, and North	157	8	250	44	.....	.....	459	34
28	North and Zapadni	33	3	29	3	1	.....	69	47
	Total	1,685	244	744	579	5	3	3,260	51

[Inclosure 4.]

EXHIBIT E.—*Counts of rookeries, St. George Island, season of 1906.*

NORTH.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.
1906.				
April 30	1			
May 14	16	1		
May 19	22			
May 24	43	1		
May 29	50	2		
June 1	50			
June 3	55	2		
June 7	61	1		
June 10	65	2	1	1
June 14	68	1	4	4
June 17	69	1	11	11
June 19	71	1	16	19
June 21	70	3	14	63
June 24	70	1	38	100
June 28	79		60	425
June 30	79	1	62	661
July 2	77	2	67	1,024
July 5	80	3	72	1,636
July 9	81	1	77	2,399
July 12	81	1	78	2,920
July 14	81	3	78	2,430

STARAYA ARTEL.

May 15	5			
May 19	10			
May 29	14			
June 1	16			
June 21	23	2	7	12
July 13	26	2	26	[1] 1,252

ZAPADNI.

May 17	12			
May 18	12			
May 24	14	3		
June 1	27			
June 2	28			
June 22	33		6	26
June 27	33	1	14	223
July 16	37	3	34	[1] 1,547

EAST CLIFFS.

May 15	7			
May 19	10			
May 23	18	1		
June 1	27			
June 5	31	1		
June 8	31	2		
June 10	33	1	2	2
June 16	32	3	3	3
June 18	33	1	10	11
June 21	32		16	37
June 23	37		17	78
June 26	37	2	25	265
June 28	36	3	26	396
June 30	35	3	28	531
July 4	35	3	30	972
July 8	36	2	32	1,296
July 10	36	4	32	1,478
July 13	36	3	34	1,522

[1] Estimated.

EXHIBIT E.—*Counts of rookeries, St. George Island, season of 1906*—Continued.

EAST REEF.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.
May 15	4			
May 19	5			
May 23	7	1		
June 1	8			
June 5	8			
June 8	9	2		
June 10	11			
June 16	12	1		
June 18	10	2		
June 21	12	1	1	1
June 23	11		3	3
June 26	14		5	7
June 28	14		11	31
June 30	15		14	73
July 4	15		12	171
July 8	16		16	370
July 10	16	1	15	469
July 13	17	2	15	546
July 15	16	2	16	546
July 18	15		15	458

LITTLE EAST.

May 15	1			
May 19	5			
May 23	5	1		
June 1	8			
June 3	8			
June 5	8			
June 9	8			
June 11	8			
June 14	8			
June 16	8			
June 18	8			
June 21	8			
June 23	8		1	1
June 26	8		3	5
June 28	8		6	14
June 30	8		6	35
July 8	8		8	122
July 10	8		7	145
July 13	8		8	161
July 15	8		8	136
July 18	8		8	103

[Inclosure 5.]

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. George Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1906.

Date.	Rookery.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.			Number of seals killed by lessees for skins.				Aggregate.		
		Large young seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Accepted (prime).	Rejected.		Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total seals killed.
						Under size.	Large.				
1905.											
Oct. 19	East	133	133	133					133		133
19	Zapadni watchmen	7	7	7					7		7
27	Staraya Artel and North	29	29	29					29		29
31	East	59	59	59					59		59
31	Zapadni watchmen	1	1	1					1		1
Nov. 7	Staraya Artel	41	41	41					41		41
8	Zapadni watchmen	2	2	2					2		2
13	do	1	1	1					1		1
16	East rookery	24	24	24					24		24
26	Staraya Artel and North	3	3	3					3		3
1906.											
May 30	Zapadni watchmen	2	2	2					2		2
June 8	do	3	3	3					3		3
11	North (drive for branding)				21	1		22	21	1	22
14	Zapadni watchmen	3	3	3					3		3
16	North and Staraya Artel (drive for branding)				44	1		45	44	1	45
21	North and Staraya Artel (road skins)	4	4	4					4		4
22	Zapadni watchmen	3	3	3					3		3
25	East, Staraya Artel, and North (drive for branding)				30		1	31	30	1	31
27	Zapadni				78			78	78		78
30	Staraya Artel and East				215	2	2	219	215	4	219
July 5	Zapadni				68	3		71	68	3	71
6	Staraya Artel, East, and North				233	14		247	233	14	247
10	do				251	6		257	251	6	257
12	Zapadni				48	1		49	48	1	49
16	Staraya Artel and East				190	1	1	192	190	2	192
19	Zapadni and East				69	4		73	69	4	73
21	Staraya Artel and East				189	22		211	189	22	211
25	Staraya Artel, East, and North				156		1	157	156	1	157
27	Zapadni				6			6	6		6
28	North				27			27	27		27
	Total	315			1,625	55	5	1,685	1,940	[1] 60	2,000

[1] The 60 skins herein designated as rejected were taken by the lessee during this sealing season, and weigh under 5 pounds or over 8½ pounds. The shipment of such skins being forbidden, they are held here subject to instructions from the department.

[Inclosure 6.]

Expenditures of Government appropriation, St. George Island, 1906.

Amount allotted St. George Island	$4,665.00
Amount allotted St. George Island by reduction in price of coal	625.00
Total	5,290.00

EXPENDITURES.

1905.

July, vouchers 1 to 9, inclusive	$27.80	
August, vouchers 10 to 55, inclusive	236.65	
September, vouchers 56 to 160, inclusive	510.45	
October, vouchers 161 to 244, inclusive	423.75	
November, vouchers 245 to 326, inclusive	438.15	
December, vouchers 327 to 426, inclusive	509.95	

1906.

January, vouchers 427 to 504, inclusive	400.60	
February, vouchers 505 to 581, inclusive	385.15	
March, vouchers 582 to 681, inclusive	530.55	
April, vouchers 682 to 735, inclusive	322.75	
May, vouchers 736 to 810, inclusive	377.10	
June, vouchers 811 to 912, inclusive	1,056.75	
Total		5,219.65
Amount unexpended		70.35

[Inclosure 7.]

EXHIBIT F.—*Seal division, St. George Island, August 4, 1906.*

By 1,940 sealskins, at 75 cents		$1,455.00
To 12 first-class men, at $65.40	$784.80	
To 8 second-class men, at $52.30	418.40	
To 4 third-class men, at $39.20	156.80	
To 2 special-class men	75.00	
To 1,000 pounds pig feed	20.00	
Amount expended		1,455.00

FIRST CLASS.

1. Stepan Lekanof	65.40
2. Demetri Lestenkof	65.40
3. Mike Lestenkof	65.40
4. Nicoli Malavansky	65.40
5. George Merculif	65.40
6. Joseph Merculif	65.40
7. Nicolai Merculif	65.40
8. Andronic Philamonof	65.40
9. Gregory Philamonof	65.40
10. Simeon Philamonof	65.40
11. Peter Prokopief	65.40
12. Rev. Peter Kashavarof	65.40

SECOND CLASS.

1. Alexander Galanin	52.30
2. John Galanin	52.30
3. Walter Kashavarof	52.30
4. Peter Malavansky	52.30
5. Nicoli Nedarazof	52.30
6. Mike Shane	52.30
7. Gregory Swetzof	52.30
8. Manuel Zaharof	52.30

THIRD CLASS.

1. Anatoli Lekanof	$39.20
2. John Merculif	39.20
3. Marka Merculif	39.20
4. Demetri Philamonof	39.20

SPECIAL CLASS.

1. Stepan Lekanof, chief	40.00
2. Joseph Merculif, second chief	35.00

The division as above made is hereby approved on behalf of the natives of this island.

STEPAN LEKANOFF, *First Chief.*
JOSEPH MERCULIEFF, *Second Chief.*

I certify that the amounts indicated herein have been placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By DR. L. A. NOYES, *Agent.*

I certify that the above division was made by me after conference with the native chiefs.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor, in Charge St. George Island.

EXHIBIT 15.

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 9, 1906.

This is to certify that 1,940 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor, in Charge St. George Island.

Shipper's load and count.

A. DONALDSON, *Master Steamship "Homer."*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
WASHINGTON.

Memorandum: In the matter of the increase of prices of commodities sold to the natives on the Pribilof Islands by the North American Commercial Co.

Since the year 1900 the prices charged on St. Paul and St. George Islands by the lessee company for necessaries of life have been increased materially. This action was sought to be justified by the company on the ground of increased wholesale cost to the retailer.

As instances, the following items are cited:

Coal increased from per ton	$15.50 to	$20.00
Tobacco increased from per pound	.30 to	.50
Hard bread increased from do	.05 to	.06
Salt beef increased from do	.10 to	.12½
Butter (reduced in 1905 to $0.70 a square) increased from per square of 1½ pounds	.60 to	.80
Drop shot increased from per pound	.10 to	.12½
Hosiery (reduced in 1905 to $0.50 a pair) increased from per pair	.50 to	.60
Potatoes increased from per pound	.03 to	.03½
Shotgun primers increased from per box of 250	.40 to	.50

The increased cost to the natives of these articles amounts to approximately $3,500 per annum, representing the income from the labor incident to taking 7,000 sealskins.

In 1891 the natives' compensation for taking sealskins was fixed by the Treasury Department at 50 cents per skin. Previous to that date the natives received 40 cents. Since 1891 no change in the rate of compensation has been made. In addition, also, the company has continued for many years to compensate the natives for miscellaneous labor at the rate of 10 cents per hour, except for handling cargo, when 15 cents per hour is paid. It is understood that the same company pays similar natives at Dutch Harbor for laboring at the rate of $1.50 per day of 10 hours with board.

By reason of the rapidly diminishing catch of seals, the earnings of the Pribilof Islands natives will become correspondingly attenuated.

The number of sealskins sold in London by the North American Commercial Co. and the average prices obtained since 1890 are appended. (See Hearings before Ways and Means, Mar. 9 and 10, 1904, p. 76.) The catches of 1904 and 1905 have been inserted by me.

Years.	Number of skins.	Average price per skin.
1890	28,859	$36.50
1891	12,040	30.00
1892	7,511	30.00
1893	7,396	27.00
1894	16,270	20.50
1895	14,846	20.25
1896	30,654	17.00
1897	19,200	15.50
1898	18,047	16.00
1899	16,812	26.00
1900	22,470	32.00
1901	22,672	34.00
1902	22,190	32.50
1903	19,212	29.50
1904	[1] 13,128	.....
1905	[1] 14,368	.....

[1] Inserted.

Since 1891 the wages for all classes of labor have increased generally throughout the United States, as a result of the increased cost of living. The wages of the seal-island natives have remained the same, but the lessee has found it necessary, on account of the increased cost of goods, to raise the prices of the same on the islands. It is submitted that an increase in the wages paid by the lessee to the natives should be made to offset the raise in prices.

The compensation paid the natives for taking skins should be increased to 75 cents per skin. Based upon an estimated catch of 13,000 seals this would result in a total increase of $3,250, which is $250 less than the estimated increase in the total cost of provisions caused by increased prices.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

FALL, 1906.

Prices of articles sold on Pribilof Islands by North American Commercial Co.

Articles.	Quantity.	Island price.	San Francisco retail price.	Reduced island price.
Apples, dried	Per pound	$0.15	$0.10	.....
Bacon	do	.25	.19½	.....
Baking powder	For 4 ounces	.20	[1].20	.....
Beans, dried	Per pound	.08⅓	.05	$0.05
Bluing, balls	Box	.25	.10 to .25	.....
Bread, pilot	Per pound	.06	[2]	.....
Butter	Per square of 1½ pounds	.80	.45	.70
Candles	Per set of 6	.20	.20	.15
Canned beef:				
Roast	Per 2-pound tin	.30	.30	.....
Corned	do	.30	.25	.....
Canned fruits	do	.30	.20 to .25	.25
Canned vegetables:				
Beans	Per can	.20	.15	.....
Corn	do	.20	.15	.....
Tomatoes	do	.20	.12½	.....
Peas	do	.20	.12½	.....
Clams	do	.25	.10 to .20	.....
Coal oil	Per gallon	.40	.26 to .31	.....
Coffee	Per pound	.35	.25	.25
Crackers:				
Soda	do	.10	.10	.....
Sweet, assorted	do	.20	.15	.....
Currants, dried	do	.15	.15	.....
Flour	Per ¼ barrel	1.75	1.25	.....
Gunpowder, Black Golden Pheasant.	Per pound	.80	.35	.50
Ham	do	.25	.15 to .20	.....
Jelly	do	.25	[3].20	.....
Lard	Per 2½ pounds	.50	.40	.....
	Per 5 pounds	.90	.65	.....
Matches, California, sulphur	Per package	.10	.05	.05
Milk, Borden's condensed	Per can	.25	.15	.....
Mustard	Per ½ pound	.25	.20	.....
Onions, fresh	Per pound	.05	.....	.....
Oysters	Per can	.30	.20	.....
Peaches, dried	Per pound	.15	.15	.....
Pepper	Per ½ pound	.25	.20	.....
Potatoes, fresh	Per pound	.03½	.02½	.....
Prunes, dried	do	.15	.05 to .12½	.....
Raisins	do	.15	.12½ to .15	.....
Rice	Per 3 pounds	.25	.25	.....
Salmon	Per 2-pound tin	.25	.20	.....
Salt beef	Per pound	.12½	.10	.....
Salt pork	do	.15	.....	.....
Sardines, American	Per 2 tins	.25	.....	.....
Sauce, Worcester American Club	Per bottle	.40	L. & P., .25	.30
Soap:				
Kitchen	For 4 bars	.25	[4].25	.....
Ivory	For 2 bars	.25	[5].25	.....
Soups:				
Franco-American	Per can	.40	.35	.....
Columbia	do	.40	.....	.35
Starch:				
Laundry	Per pound	.25	.12½	.15
Corn	do	.25	.10	.15
Sugar, cube	do	.10	.07½	.....
Sweet oil, American Durand's, cottonseed.	Per quart bottle	.50	.20	.35
Sirup, Crown Drip		.80	.40	.70
Tea	Per pound	.50	.50	.....
Tobacco:				
Leaf	do	.50	.....	.....
Durham	Per 3⅓ ounces	.25	.15	.....
Mastiff	do	.25	.15	.....
Vinegar	Per quart	.10	.08¾	.....
Yeast cakes	Per package	.15	.05	.10

[1] 6 ounce. [2] Three for 25 cents. [3] For 2 pounds. [4] 5 bars. [5] 3 bars.

Prices of articles sold on Pribilof Islands by North American Commercial Co.—Contd.

CLOTHING.

Articles.	Quantity.	Island price.	San Francisco retail price.	Reduced island price.
Arctics:				
Men's short		$2.25	$1.75	.....
Women's short		1.50	1.25	.....
Misses' short		1.25	1.00	.....
Child's short		1.00	.....	.....
Boots:				
Men's leather		6.00	.....	.....
Youths' leather		3.00	.....	.....
Boys' leather		2.50	.....	.....
Buttons:				
Dress, metal	Per dozen	.25	.....	$0.15
White porcelain	do	.02½	.....	.....
Calico	Per yard	.10	.....	.....
Canton flannel	do	.25	.....	.....
Carpet, 2-ply ingrain	Per yard	1.00	.....	.75
Caps:				
Men's light		.75 1.00	.....	.....
Men's heavy		1.50	.....	.....
Boys' light		.50	.....	.....
Clothing:				
Men's suits		18.00	.....	.....
Boys' suits, according to size		5.00–12.00	.....	.....
Men's pants		5.00	.....	.....
Thread, cotton, O. N. T.	3 spools for	.25	.05 each	.....
Denim	Per yard	.20	.....	.....
Dress goods:				
Mixed wool and cotton		.60	.....	.....
Flannel, according to quality		.50 .60 .75	.....	.....
Gingham	Per yard	.15	.....	.....
Gloves:				
Men's heavy leather		1.50	.....	.....
Men's light leather		1.25	.....	.....
Wool gloves and mittens, heavy		.60	.....	.....
Handkerchiefs:				
White, men's		.25	.....	.....
Red cotton		.20	.....	.....
Hooks and eyes	Per paper	.10	.....	.05
Hose:				
Men's woolen socks	Per pair	.60	.....	.50
Women's woolen hose	do	.60	.....	.50
Misses' woolen hose	do	.50	.....	.35
Child's woolen hose	do	.40, .30	.....	.25
Babies' cotton hose	do	.20	.....	.15
Leather:				
Soles and heels	do	.75	.....	.....
Uppers, for skin boots	do	.75	.....	.....
Muslin, barred, for dresses	Per yard	.25	.....	.....
Common, according to quality	do	.10, .12½, .15	.....	.....
Sheeting, according to width	do	.20, .25	.....	.....
Neckties	Each	.50, .75	.....	.....
Oilskin coats	do	3.00	.....	.....
Overalls:				
Pants		1.00	.....	.....
Blouse		1.25	.....	.....
Rubber boots:				
Men's hip		6.00	5.50	.....
Women's knee		2.25	.....	.....
Rubber shoes:				
Men's		1.00	.....	.....
Women's		.90	.....	.....
Child's		.50, .60, .75	.....	.....
Shirts:				
Men's woolen		2.00	.....	.....
Men's white		1.50	.....	.....
Men's negligee		.75, 1.25, 1.50	.....	.....
Shoes:				
Men's		4.50	4.00	.....
Women's		4.50	.....	.....
Child's, according to size		1.00–3.00	.....	.....
Shoe strings:				
Cotton	Per pair	.05	.....	.....
Leather	do	.10	.....	.....
Silesia	Per yard	.20	.....	.15
Suspenders	Per pair	.50, .75	.....	.....
White Swiss	Per yard	.25	.....	.....
Ticking, bed	do	.25	.....	.20

Prices of articles sold on Pribilof Islands by North American Commercial Co.—Contd.

CLOTHING—Continued.

Articles.	Quantity.	Island price.	San Francisco retail price.	Reduced island price.
Underwear:				
Men's heavy wool	Per garment	$1.50		
Women's vests		1.50		
Yarn, Saxony, 12 hanks to pound	Per hank	.15		

MISCELLANEOUS.

Chimneys, lamp, all sizes		$0.15		
Cod line	Per pound	.40		
Cups	Each	.10		
Knives and forks (steel)	Per pair	.35		$0.25
Spoons	Each	.10		
Plates	2 for 25 cents, each	.12½		
Tumblers	3 for 25 cents, each	.08⅓		
Nails	Per pound	.10		
Needles:				
Sewing	Per package	.10		
Machine	2 for	.05		
Paints (mixed):				
Lead	Per pound	.15		
Zinc	do	.20		
Saucers	Each	.10		
Shovels, small fire	do	.25		.15
Tacks, carpet	Per package	.10		.05
Washboards	Each	.50		

Submitted by North American Commercial Co.

Articles.	Quantity.	Retail island price.	Retail San Francisco price.
Tea	Pound	$0.50	$0.50
Sugar	do	.10	.08⅓
Condensed milk	Can	.25	.15
Butter	Roll	.70	.70
Canned fruit	Can	.25	.25
Canned vegetables	do	.20	.20
Canned beef	do	.30	.30
Jelly	do	.25	.25
Rice	Pound	.08½	.06¼
Lard	do	.18	.14
Soda crackers	do	.10	.10
Assorted crackers	do	.20	.20
Raisins	do	.15	.15
Flour	½ sack	1.75	1.25
Pilot bread	Pound	.06	.08⅓
Candles	do	.15	.15
Lobster	Can	.25	.30
Soup	do	.35	.35
Clams	do	.30	.20
Oysters	do	.25	.25
Sirup	Quart	.20	.15
Coffee	Pound	.35	.35
Sardines	Box	.12½	.12½
Starch	Pound	.15	.12½
Dried fruit	do	.15	.15
Salt beef	do	.12½	.10
Salmon	Can	.30	.25
Potatoes	Pound	.03½	.02¼
Onions	do	.05	.07
Bacon	do	.25	.20
Ham	do	.22½	.17½
Salt pork	do	.15	.15
Baking powder	½ pound	.20	.15
Sauce	Bottle	.30	.25
Sweet oil	do	.50	.50
Soap	Bar	.06¼	.07
Coal oil	Gallon	.40	.35
Heavy shoes	Pair	4.50	4.00

Submitted by North American Commercial Co.—Continued.

Articles.	Quantity.	Retail island price.	Retail San Francisco price.
Rubber boots	Pair	$6.00	$5.50
Men's arctics	do	2.25	1.75
Women's arctics	do	1.50	1.25
Misses' arctics	do	1.25	1.00
Boys' boots	do	2.50	2.50
Men's rubbers	do	1.00	1.00
Women's rubbers	do	.80	.75
Raincoats	Each	3.00	2.25
Trousers	Pair	5.00	4.50
Jumpers	Each	1.25	.75
Overalls	Pair	1.00	.75
Arctic socks	do	.25	.25
Women's stockings	do	.60	.50
Do	do	.50	.35
Underwear	Garment	1.50	1.25
Overshirts	do	1.50	1.25
Do	do	.75	.75

St. Paul.

Butter cost to company in San Francisco, per pound:	Cents.
1890	18
1891	22¾
1892	20
1893	20¾
1894	21
1895	12¾
1896	16
1897	17¾
1898	22¾
1899	20¾
1900	19¾
1901	18½
1902	21
1903	24
1904	23
1905	23¼
Average cost, San Francisco, 1890 to 1902	19⅓
Average cost, San Francisco, 1903 to 1905	23.41

Advance in San Francisco, 1903 to 1905 over 1890 to 1902, $21\frac{1}{10}$ per cent.
Advance on St. Paul, 16⅔ per cent.

Flour cost to company in San Francisco, per barrel:	
1890	$4.00
1891	5.25
1893	3.70
1894	3.40
1895	2.90
1896	3.50
1897	4.10
1898	5.25
1899	3.35
1900	3.15
1901	2.90
1902	3.15
1903	4.10
1904	4.15
1905	4.35
Average price, 1893 to 1902	3.54
Average price, 1903 to 1905	4.20

Advance in San Francisco, 1903 to 1905 over 1893 to 1902, $18\frac{6}{10}$ per cent.
Advance on St. Paul Island, 16⅔ per cent.

Salt beef cost to company in San Francisco, per barrel:

1890	$10.50
1891	10.50
1892	10.50
1893	11.00
1894	11.00
1895	11.00
1896	11.00
1897	11.00
1898	12.00
1899	13.50
1900	14.50
1901	12.50
1902	12.50
1903	12.50
1904	12.50
1905	12.50
Average cost, 1890 to 1898	10.95
Average cost, 1899 to 1905	12.95

Advance in San Francisco, 1899 to 1905 over 1890 to 1898, $18\frac{3}{16}$ per cent.
Advance on St. Paul, 25 per cent.

Part II. Communications Relative to Revenue-Cutter Patrol.

April 25, 1906.

Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, with reference to detailing vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service to aid in the enforcement of the laws governing the taking of fur seals and to enable this department to make its annual inspection of the Alaskan salmon fisheries.

With reference to the fur-seal fisheries, I have the honor to request that arrangements be made for the usual patrol of Bering Sea by vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service, for the enforcement of the laws and regulations in reference to the killing of fur seals.

In view of the approaching negotiations to secure an international agreement which will put a stop to pelagic sealing, the department is desirous of securing full information as to the present condition of the fur-seal fisheries. Accordingly it has been decided to send to the seal islands during the coming season Mr. E. W. Sims, solicitor of the department, who for some time past has had charge of this branch of the service. The department requests, therefore, that if possible arrangements be made to transport Mr. Sims to and from the islands.

With reference to the Alaskan salmon fisheries, I have the honor to request that arrangements be made for the usual annual inspection. Detailed information as to the extent of the inspection will be furnished as soon as the matter has been definitely determined by the department. In this connection I have the honor to request that arrangements be made to enable Hon. George M. Bowers, Commissioner of Fisheries, to make certain investigations with reference to the establishment of fish hatcheries in Alaska and for other purposes.

In accordance with your suggestion, Mr. Bowers and Mr. Sims will confer as soon as practicable with the Chief of Division, Revenue-Cutter Service, relative to the route to be taken, time of inspection, etc.

Respectfully,

Lawrence O. Murray,
Acting Secretary.

The honorable the Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 22, 1906.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: There is inclosed to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter addressed to this department by Hon. H. A. Taylor, Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

[Copy.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 21, 1906.

The honorable SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: 1. I have the honor to state that the revenue cutter *Thetis* has been selected to make the cruise this season to the Arctic Ocean; also that the revenue cutters *Perry* and *Rush* have been designated by the President to cruise the present season in the waters of the northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea for the enforcement of the act of Congress approved December 29, 1897, and the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration, decreed the 15th day of August, 1893, for the preservation of the fur seals.

2. It is intended that the *Perry* shall perform the regular cruising in Bering Sea and around the Pribilof Islands, and that the *Rush*, in addition to any duties she may be able to perform in connection with the fur-seal fisheries, is to make the regular cannery cruise in Alaskan waters.

3. I have respectfully to request that if there be any special duties that the Department of Commerce and Labor desires these vessels to perform in addition to those for which requests have already been made, this department be advised at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully,

H. A. TAYLOR,
Acting Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 26, 1906.

Capt. F. M. DUNWOODY,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding United States Revenue Cutter "Perry,"
Port Townsend, Wash.

SIR: 1. You are informed that the President has designated the United States revenue cutter *Perry*, under your command, to patrol the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, as far as may be practicable, the present season for the purpose of enforcing the act of Congress approved December 29, 1897, and the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration decreed the 15th of August, 1893 (copies inclosed).

2. Under the provisions of the act of Congress above referred to, it is unlawful for any citizen or vessel of the United States to engage in pelagic sealing at any time or in any manner in the waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude, in the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. You are therefore directed to seize any vessel of the United States found navigating the sea as above indicated, in violation of the law, and send the same to the nearest or most accessible port of the United States; upon arrival there to be surrendered to the custody of competent authority having jurisdiction.

3. Since, under the enactment by Congress above referred to and given in full in the "Regulations, Fur-Seal Fishing Season of 1902" (which apply to the present season), vessels of the United States are prohibited absolutely from engaging in fur-seal fishing within the geographical limits prescribed, it follows that the "Regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration" (given in full herewith), are applicable only to British vessels, and that fur-seal fishing is prohibited to subjects of Great Britain at any time or in any manner within a zone of 60 geographic miles around Pribilof Islands, inclusive of territorial waters, and from May 1 to July 31, in that part of the Pacific Ocean inclusive of Bering Sea, situated north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and eastward of the one hundred and eightieth degree of longitude from Greenwich, until it strikes the water boundary described in article 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Bering Strait.

4. You will arrange with the senior British naval officer at Unalaska engaged in carrying out the provisions of the award, for the mutual delivery of vessels of the one country seized by officers of the other.

5. You will be governed by the following instructions while cruising for the enforcement of the fur-seal regulations:

(*a*) The terms of the award apply only to vessels of the United States and Great Britain. The first duty of the boarding officer is to satisfy himself by an inspection of her documents as to the vessel's nationality. Vessels boarded beyond the legal jurisdiction of the United States and found to be of a nationality not included in the award are not to be searched or detained longer than is necessary to establish the fact.

(*b*) Long chases are not advisable. After a vessel is brought within reach of your guns, if she does not bring to, display the national ensign and open fire. Fire one blank and one solid shot as a warning. If she still neglects to come to the wind, aim to hit, and use the force at your command to compel her to submit to being boarded and searched.

(*c*) A mere cursory or perfunctory search of vessels boarded is strictly forbidden. The search must be made by two commissioned officers, or one commissioned and one petty officer, and the necessary number of men, who are required to remain on board until every part of the vessel where a sealskin or a shotgun or rifle could be concealed has been searched.

(*d*) Boarding officers are required to exercise courtesy and forbearance and avoid all discussions. Offensive remarks or actions by

members of the crew or others on board the vessel being searched are under no circumstances to be taken notice of.

(*e*) Should a sealskin be found on board that bears satisfactory evidence of having been shot within the Bering Sea, or killed in any manner within the area of the award in the Pacific Ocean between April 30 and August 1, or within 60 miles of the Pribilof Islands at any time, the vessel must be seized.

(*f*) Any vessel of Great Britain found within the area of the award during the closed season engaged in fur-seal fishing or fitted for fur-seal fishing and not being provided with the special sealing license is ordered seized. Or if any licensed vessel shall be found within the area of the award during the closed season having on board a seal-hunting outfit suitable for taking seal but forbidden then and there to be used she is ordered seized.

(*g*) Only sailing vessels are permitted to engage in fur-seal fishing during the period of time and in the waters in which fur-seal fishing is allowed. Any vessel propelled in whole or in part by steam or other motive power than sail, found so engaged, is ordered seized.

(*h*) If a vessel which appears to be a sealing vessel is found within the area during the periods of time in which fur-seal fishing is forbidden, you will ascertain whether she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing; whether she was carried there by stress of weather, by a mistake during foggy or thick weather, or is there in the ordinary course of navigation making the best of her way to any place. You must judge whether such vessel has been engaged in fur-seal fishing from the presence of sealskins or bodies of seals on board, or salt, and from other circumstances and indications.

(*i*) If such vessel is found outside of the area of the award and it is evident that she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing within said area, and has thus committed an offense, you will seize her. A vessel may violate the law by her boats fur-seal fishing within said area while the vessel herself is outside of said area.

(*j*) When you make a seizure, you will, at the time thereof, draw up a declaration in writing stating the conditions of the seized vessel, the date and exact place of seizure, giving latitude and longitude and any additional data by which exact location may be determined and circumstances showing guilt. Arms or skins found (the cause of seizure), as well as all papers, must be examined on board the seized vessel and so marked as to be readily identified by the boarding officers when produced in court or elsewhere. This is important and must not be neglected.

(*k*) The seized vessel will be taken or sent, as soon as practicable, with all persons on board thereof, in charge of a sufficient force to insure delivery, together with witnesses and proofs, and the declaration of the officer making the seizure, if American, to the most convenient port of California, Oregon, Washington, or Alaska, and delivered to the officers of the United States court; and if British, to Unalaska, and there delivered to the senior British naval officer present, or taken to the most convenient port in British Columbia and delivered to the proper authorities of Great Britain, or deliver her to the commanding officer of any British vessel authorized to receive her.

(*l*) A signed and certified list of papers of the seized vessel will be delivered to the master thereof, and a duplicate copy transmitted with the declarations.

(*m*) Any British vessel boarded and found not to be subject to seizure will be furnished with a copy of the fur-seal regulations.

(*n*) Each vessel so boarded shall be given a written certificate showing the date and place of examination, the number of fur-seal skins and the number of bodies of seals on board. A duplicate of said certificate shall be preserved.

Respectfully,

J. B. REYNOLDS,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, May 28, 1906.

Approved.

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, August 27, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of reports dated the 17th and 28th ultimo from Capt. F. M. Dunwoody, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the United States revenue cutter *Perry*, containing information in relation to the recent raid on St. Paul Island by the crews of certain Japanese vessels and the disposition made of the prisoners, and regarding Japanese vessels engaged in salmon fishing near the island of Attu.

Respectfully,

J. B. REYNOLDS,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "PERRY,"
Unalaska, Alaska, July 17, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have to report the arrival of the *Perry* at Unalaska from a cruise in Bering Sea as far to the westward as Attu, returning via seal islands. The object of extending the cruise to Attu was for the purpose of making inquiry into a report brought to Unalaska by a man by the name of Dirks engaged in trading with natives of that island, and which report was sent by the last mail steamer to be telegraphed to the Associated Press, to the effect that Japanese fishing vessels returned to the islands in September of last year after having been warned away by the *Perry*, and had traded flour, rice, matches, coal oil, and other articles in violation of law, and to the injury of his business enterprises. We also intended to distribute a part of the clothing sent on board by the Woman's National Relief Society to destitute natives of the Aleutian Islands.

The *Perry* left Unalaska at 5.40 a. m., July 5, and when off Cape Cheerful laid course for Bogoslof Islands with a view of verifying the report that a third island had risen in addition to the two which are

already charted. The weather was overcast and hazy, with light westerly wind and smooth sea. At 11 a. m., sighted the smoke and steam from the new volcano. When the islands were bearing WSW. ¼ W. distant about 4½ miles, fell in with a small vessel which was boarded and found to be the Japanese sealing schooner *Toktura Maru*, of Tokyo, F. Murao, master. She had been out since June 3 and had succeeded in getting only two seals. The *Perry* then continued on toward Bogoslov, and when within probably a mile and a half of the island stopped and sent the cutter with several of the officers of the vessel to make a landing and investigate the new island. Lieut. Fisher was in charge of the boat and upon his return submitted to me a report of his observation and a rough sketch of the islands as they now appear, both of which are herewith inclosed for the information of the department, together with photographs taken by Asst. Surg. H. G. Egbert, United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

At 3.25 continued on our course to Attu Island, where we arrived on the afternoon of the 10th, anchoring in Sarrana Bay, where the Japanese vessels were found engaged in fishing last year. The natives live at this place during the summer engaged in catching and drying their supply of salmon to last them through the year.

From an interview with Filaret Prokopief, the head chief of the natives, I was able to gather the following information relative to the operations of the Japanese vessels engaged in fishing for salmon in those waters:

It appears that of the four vessels warned away last season one returned about a week later to pick up six men who had gone back into the mountains. She left the harbor three or four days later. In September a small Japanese schooner appeared in one of the bays on the south side of the island. Filaret stated that he believed he came for the purpose of fishing, but it was too late in the season and she left a few days later without attempting to fish. This same vessel came into Sarrana Bay this year, remained about ten days, and caught about 3,000 salmon. The chief said he tried to stop them fishing, but was unable to do so until after the arrival of four Japanese sealing vessels, which came into Chigagoff Harbor for water, on board of one of which was a Japanese, whom he was able to make understand that it was unlawful for Japanese to engage in fishing operations, and who wrote and sent a letter to the master of the schooner then engaged in fishing in Sarrana Bay. Filaret told me that he did not know what information the letter contained, but the next day the fishing vessel left the harbor. This is the only vessel engaged in fishing that had been in the bay this season.

It appears that for the assistance rendered the Japanese in fishing by the natives last year the following articles were given the chief, who distributed them among the native families: One thousand two hundred and fifty pounds of flour, 3,200 pounds of rice, 200 packages (10 each) matches, and 30 gallons of coal oil.

We found the natives in a very destitute condition as regards clothing, and one-half of the supply sent on board by the W. N. R. S. was distributed among them. We left Attu on the evening of the 11th and arrived at St. Paul Island on morning of the 14th, where we received on board Mr. M. C. Marsh, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and proceeded to St. George Island, where we arrived at

9.15 p. m., same date, and anchored. On the morning of the 15th Mr. Marsh left the vessel.

We remained at St. George over Sunday. During the day Mr. Chichester, special agent, called. He informed me that one small schooner, flying the Argentine Republic flag, had been sighted this season within 2 miles of the island, but that no attempt to land or raid the rookeries had been made. I learned that a vessel had also been seen off Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, a short time before the arrival of the *Perry*. On the morning of the 16th, left St. George and arrived at Unalaska the following morning.

As soon as the vessel is coaled and everything in readiness will proceed on a cruise and expect to touch at Chernofsky on the western end of Unalaska Island, where I am informed the natives are in a very destitute condition.

To-day, the 18th, the monthly mail steamer arrived, bringing department letter of June 25, relative to investigating and submitting a report upon the third island, which has arisen in addition to the two which are now charted as Bogoslof Islands. Also letter of June 26, inclosing a copy of act of Congress, approved June 14, 1906 (Public No. 228), entitled "An act to prohibit aliens from fishing in the waters of Alaska."

Respectfully,

F. M. DUNWOODY,
Captain, U. S. Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "PERRY,"
Dutch Harbor, Alaska, July 28, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I respectfully inform the department that the *Perry* was in readiness to sail from Unalaska for a cruise in Bering Sea on the 21st instant, on which date the U. S. S. *McCulloch* arrived from the Pribilof Islands, having on board Special Agent Lembkey, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, in charge of 12 Japanese prisoners who were captured on the 17th and 18th of July, 1906, while in the act of raiding the seal rookeries located at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island. In repelling the raid the guard, under the orders of Mr. Lembkey, fired upon the raiders and killed 5. Upon the arrival of the *McCulloch* at St. Paul Island, Mr. Simms and Mr. Bowers, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, were landed, and as it was necessary for the *McCulloch* to proceed to Unalaska for a supply of coal, it was decided to transfer the prisoners, in charge of Mr. Lembkey, to her for transportation to Unalaska, where they could be put temporarily in the custody of the deputy United States marshal.

Soon after the arrival of the *McCulloch* I conferred with Capt. Cantwell and Agent Lembkey. As the *McCulloch* would be delayed several days coaling and making some necessary repairs, it was decided that the interests of the Government would be best served if the *Perry* furnished transportation to Mr. Lembkey to St. Paul Island, and there take on board Mr. Simms and Mr. Bowers to con-

vey them to St. George Island and thence to Unalaska. The *McCulloch* would in the meantime have taken coal and have been ready to proceed with prisoners and witnesses to Valdez, where the United States district court is to meet on August 6.

On the 22d instant, Mr. Lembkey being ready to return, the *Perry* got underway and proceeded to Dutch Harbor for the purpose of taking on board the mail for the seal islands. On arriving at Dutch Harbor it was reported necessary to adjust the valve chamber bonnet of main feed pump, which on examination was found to be cracked. The cracked bonnet was removed and replaced by the bonnet of the after feed pump, which was not in use. After a delay of about 20 minutes the main engine was turned over preparatory to getting underway. Only one revolution of the engine had been made when the bonnet of the air pump gave way, disabling the engine completely. The vessel was brought to anchor, Mr. Lembkey and the island mail were transferred to the *McCulloch*, and I requested Capt. Cantwell to detail Chief Engineer C. M. Green, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, and Second Asst. Engineer C. C. McMillan, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, of his command, to act with Chief Engineer Chas. H. Foote, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, of the *Perry*, as a board of investigation to examine into the cause and extent of the injuries sustained. The report of this board is forwarded under a separate cover.

Suitable material and the use of a small power drill press were found available at Dutch Harbor, and it was considered possible for the engineer's force of the vessel to make a new cover for the air pump. An arrangement was made with the representative of the North American Commercial Co. for the use of the shop with power and tools at a cost of $10 a day, and to furnish material necessary for a new cover.

The engineer's force made the repairs in accordance with recommendations of the board of investigation. The work has been completed and an underway test made with satisfactory results, all parts of the machinery working as efficiently as before the accident occurred.

Good weather prevailed most of the time the repairs were being made, giving the deck force an opportunity to touch up paint work on outside of hull. spars, smokestack, and boat davits. A detail of men was employed two days sacking coal for the *McCulloch*, so as to expedite her departure from Unalaska on her return from the seal islands. She is expected to arrive to-day. As soon as she returns I will confer with the officers representing the Department of Commerce and Labor in sealing interests and then proceed on a cruise in the Bering Sea for the purpose of enforcing the act of Congress approved December 29, 1897, and the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration.

No British sealing vessels have arrived at Dutch Harbor this season, nor up to this date has any British naval vessel engaged in carrying out the provisions of the award.

Respectfully,

F. M. DUNWOODY,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

AUGUST 9, 1906.

SIR: Referring to two telegrams received from E. W. Sims, solicitor of this department, dated Sitka, Alaska, August 6, 1906, copies of which have been forwarded to you, this department has the honor to request that the captain of the revenue cutter *McCulloch* be authorized to transport Mr. Sims and Mr. Bowers from Sitka to Ketchikan, and that she proceed thence to Valdez and there take on board Government witnesses now attending court at that place and return them to the Pribilof Islands.

It is further requested that the *McCulloch* be designated to patrol the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in conjunction with the revenue cutter *Perry* during the present season, for the enforcement of the laws and regulations in reference to the killing of fur seals, under the same instructions as those issued to the captain of the *Perry* under date of May 26, 1906.

Very respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

PART III. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO SUPERVISION OF SEAL HERD BY NATURALIST—VISIT AND REPORT OF M. C. MARSH.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, February 6, 1906.

SIR: I inclose herewith copies of communications addressed to the President by Dr. David Starr Jordan, in which he recommends that a naturalist be sent to the Pribilof Islands for the purpose of making an expert study and inspection of the fur-seal herd.

In view of the contents of these communications it is my desire that, if possible, you detail one of the naturalists connected with your bureau to do this work, and that he proceed to the seal islands as early in the spring as practicable. The naturalist should be informed that in case he requires assistance in order to make his investigations thorough and complete he should apply to Mr. Lembkey, the agent in charge.

I am informed that some of the appropriations made for your bureau are available for this work. If, however, you have no appropriation available, or if for any other reason you will be unable to detail a naturalist for this work, please advise me at an early date.

This action is taken in pursuance of the authority conferred by the act of March 3, 1893 (27 Stat., 585), which is as follows:

The Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries is authorized and required to investigate, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and when so requested report annually to him regarding the conditions of seal life upon the rookeries of the Pribilof Islands; and he is also directed to continue the inquiries relative to the life history and migrations of the fur seals frequenting the waters of Bering Sea.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

[Copy.]

LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
Stanford University, Cal., January 16, 1906.

Hon. THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
The White House, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of three documents, sent by Mr. Loeb, bearing on the fur-seal question, viz: (1) A memorandum to the President from Secretary Metcalf, (2) the printed report of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and (3) a letter addressed to Mr. Loeb by Mr. Henry W. Elliott.

As to the first of these I may say that in most respects I concur in the statement of Secretary Metcalf. The sole cause of the decline in the fur-seal herd is found in pelagic sealing, and the abolition of this practice can only be secured by action through diplomatic channels. In saying that "the fur-seal question is now chiefly, almost wholly, biological" I referred solely to its administration on the islands. The abolition of pelagic sealing is, of course, a matter of diplomacy, and the guarding of the protected zone a matter for which the Revenue Service has been thus far responsible.

It is true that, as I stated in 1902, I do not believe that any further investigation of the general fur-seal question is necessary. The statement quoted by the Secretary was intended to apply to any further inquiry as a basis for international negotiations. It did not apply to the purpose of the present memorandum regarding the subjecting of the herd to constant expert study and investigation with a view to improving its condition and understanding its problems. Such supervision and study I believe it to be the duty of the Government to provide. Had it been provided for when the herd came into our possession in the beginning there probably would not have been a fur-seal question. That the herd should be put in charge of a competent naturalist was the sole important recommendation of the commission of 1896–97, as will be seen by reference to Chapter XIX, pages 191–193, of the first volume of the commission's final report.

It may be that I have underestimated the completeness of the reports of the local agents. As I look over those of Mr. Lembkey for 1904 and 1905 I find that they are filled with important data. He has evidently done his work well. The figures he gives regarding the condition of the breeding herd as shown by the comparative counts of the rookeries are instructive and show the continued decline of the herd under pelagic sealing. As I look through the reports, however, I see no mention whatever of the effects of the parasitic worm *uncinaria*, which we found in 1896–97 to be responsible for the death of upward of 12,000 pups, or practically 10 per cent of the birthrate of that year. This was one of the most important discoveries made by our commission. It is a destructive agency which should be fought. We put in operation certain plans for doing this by covering with rocks certain sandy areas infested by the worm. The matter seems not to have been followed up and the only mention I have seen of it is in the statement made by Secretary Metcalf to the effect that "those breeding areas which were especially arranged with rock, following certain recommendations, have never since been visited by the seals."

This information is highly important. The only places thus treated were certain "death traps," sandy depressions alive with Uncinaria and consequently filled with dead pups, on Zapadni rookery of St. Paul. If, in fact, the seals have avoided these areas, it shows the complete success of the remedy proposed and the value of its adoption on all the rookeries having similarly infested tracts. The reports do not, however, show that this matter has received the attention of the agents, and Secretary Metcalf's reference to it classes it among the failures of the commission.

In all the years of control and investigation this source of loss on the rookeries was unknown, and when the rookeries were crowded it must have been enormous, until it was discovered in 1897 by Mr. F. A. Lucas, of our commission.

Another important omission I note in the reports is any mention of the survey of the rookeries made by the Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1897. Under our direction, the rookery boundaries of that season were marked with a view to use in future study of the herd. Apparently no use of these markings was made.

The plans of fencing and branding the seals were suggestions of earlier investigators which the commission of 1896-97 merely tested as a part of its duty. They were expected to assist only in the discouraging of pelagic sealing should other means of prohibiting it fail. It is true that many suggestions have been barren of practical results, but others arising from scientific sources, as the control of the parasitic worm, might be made fruitful under competent direction. Other ways of improving conditions on the rookeries would suggest themselves to a trained investigator.

What I meant by the statement that "the need of trained supervision is forcibly shown by the present confusion and doubt as to present conditions of the rookeries" is well shown by reference to Mr. Lembkey's report for the past year. The one important subject brought out by this report is the fact that of a remarkable diminution of adult male life. He finds the reserve of idle bulls small. He deduces from this a "scarcity" of bulls. The bulls are said to be "amiable" because "overtaxed." On certain rookeries they have "lost control of the breeding grounds," with the result that the bachelors are "hauling among the cows." He states that he is sure "all the cows were served," but he finds that the bulls "are not present in sufficient numbers to maintain a first-class rookery service."

If this is true, it is a serious matter and needs careful looking after. In our recommendations of 1896-97 we classed as first and most important among the subjects to be determined by the naturalist to be placed in charge of the herd a "determination of the proportion of males necessary to attend to the needs of the female breeding herd." Attention was called to the fact that this was a question that could not be "determined in a single season, nor in two, possibly not in five." It is a question that can only be settled by a trained naturalist and investigator. All that Mr. Lembkey has contributed to this are certain superficial facts and certain deductions which may or may not be of value. They are as a matter of fact merely a reecho of very similar deductions made by Mr. Henry W. Elliott in 1890. Mr. Lembkey's report settles nothing and leaves only "confusion and doubt."

The inference easily drawn from his findings is that there has been too close killing on land. The hasty and unfounded statements of Mr. Henry W. Elliott in 1890 to a similar effect furnished a basis on which the British commissioners were able to claim, by authority of our own agents, that land killing was in part at least responsible for the decline of the herd, our claim being that pelagic sealing was the sole cause. The importance of the agreement of the joint commission in 1897 was that it made pelagic sealing solely responsible for the decline and freed the methods of land sealing from blame. If the killing is too close on the islands, this is a matter that should be brought out clearly; but if it is not true, then in view of the fact that further diplomatic negotiations will be required before the fur-seal question is settled, such inference as Mr. Lembkey makes without demonstration only serves to confuse and mislead, and may prove dangerous.

In 1896–97 we found 4,500 active bulls on the rookeries, with 5,000 idle bulls waiting for a chance to break in, and 10,000 young bulls approaching the age of rookery service. This we recognized as an extraordinary condition arising from the restricted killing of males during the modus vivendi of 1891–1893. It was a condition recognized by us as detrimental to the best interests of the herd. The data in Mr. Lembkey's report indicate an equally extreme condition in the opposite direction. He finds 1,758 active bulls, 141 idle bulls, and 1,539 young bulls. This is not a condition that can be wholly accounted for by any killing of males which has occurred on the islands within the past four or five years. What the actual cause of this unusual dearth of adult male life may have been is one of the questions which a naturalist in charge of the herd since 1897 might easily have determined. The report of the agent does not give the answer.

I do not know of any more effective argument in favor of the recommendation which I made in 1897, and which I have repeated in my recent memorandum, regarding the need of trained supervision for the herd than the condition presented by this one problem in seal life to-day.

There is this logical connection between the fur-seal matter and the Bureau of Fisheries, that the problems of the herd are closely allied to those which are being dealt with in the division of scientific inquiry of the bureau. It is true that the seal is a mammal and not a fish, but three-fourths of its existence is spent in the sea, and many of its problems, as its feeding and the mortality to which it is subject as a natural result of attacks of enemies and from storms, are pelagic problems.

With reference to Mr. Elliott's letter, I do not wonder that Mr. Lembkey's conclusions interest him. They are practically identical with those put forward in 1890 by Mr. Elliott and which proved very embarrassing in our negotiation with Great Britain before the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration in 1893. These views of Mr. Elliott are fully discussed in the report of the commission of 1896–97, volume F, pages 126 and following.

The proper number of bull fur seals may be considered: (1) The actual number found in nature, (2) a number well within the limit of safety, and (3) the number below which female seals fail of impregnation.

In a state of nature, although polygamous, the numbers of male and female fur seals are equal. This has been tested by large counts of pups. In this state each male has from 0 to 50 females in his harem, the average being about 30, those having no females lying on the outskirts of the rookeries as idle bulls. It is, therefore, apparent that the male life may be greatly reduced without danger to the life of the herd. From Mr. Lembkey's reports for the last two years, if we accept his conclusions, the killing of bulls would seem to have gone beyond the limits of a wise conservatism. It is, however, in my judgment not likely that such killing has reached a point which would involve failure of proper procreation. The situation he describes may be susceptible of other explanation. If the memorandum referred to by Mr. Elliott as the "Hitchcock rules" of 1904 be enforced, as I suppose they have been, the matter will soon regulate itself. In any event there is not the slightest evidence that this alleged overkilling of males, if such we may call it, has produced any evil effects.

I note that Mr. Elliott states with reference to the "Hitchcock rules" that "the Department of Commerce and Labor engaged to order them" at his instance. This may be true, but these rules were drawn up by myself in Mr. Hitchcock's office in 1904. They seemed to me to represent a fair conservatism, and it is gratifying to find that for once I was in agreement with Mr. Elliott in a matter involving executive procedure.

While saying that I do not feel that the "scarcity" of bulls mentioned by Mr. Lembkey on page 81 of the report indicates actual danger to the herd, I wish to emphasize the fact that this is an inference merely based on my knowledge of the conditions both of the Pribilof Islands and on the Commander Islands in 1896–97. On the rookery of Poludionnoye, Bering Island, we found three bulls for between 500 and 1,000 females, and we found no reason to assume that all the cows were not served. On Garbotch rookery, on St. Paul Island, in 1896, we found one bull holding in an isolated position 100 females, and apparently caring for them all, meanwhile warding off at least three idle bulls as active as himself. I do not hold up these cases as representing desirable rookery conditions, but they certainly show that the capacity of the bulls to serve large harems is elastic, and there is nothing in the conditions on the Pribilof rookeries, as shown by Mr. Lembkey's report, that would warrant the assumption that the bulls there were overtaxed or unable to meet the needs of the herd.

In fact I am of the belief that the condition he describes is possible of very simple explanation. The class of adult males which have been known as "idle" bulls and which have occupied definite locations in the rear of the breeding harems were probably bulls that either had had harems in those locations or in near-by locations in years past, a traditional instinct leading them to occupy these places after the shrinkage of the herd left them far beyond the line of possible harem location. These older bulls are now gradually dying off. The younger bulls which make their way into the rookeries are doing so from the water front, and failing to do this are shifting about at sea or in locations where they are not conspicuous and have escaped observation. These younger bulls never having seen or held a harem on the hillside like that of Garbotch, would hardly take up voluntarily a location there, such as did the numerous idle

bulls we saw in 1896–97 on this slope. The tradition of an actual harem in the particular spot which was the object of their defense must have inspired the actions of these old bulls. The young bulls in those seasons hung about the water front, and sometimes in the rear of the rookeries, but they were not a stable element of rookery population and were hard to estimate. There are doubtless many more than Mr. Lembkey thinks.

I notice the notation of Mr. Elliott on the opening page of the report. He avers that the reduction of 58 per cent of male life on the breeding grounds is due alone to close killing on land since 1904. This is simply absurd. There could be no male life on the breeding grounds that was not 8 years old or over. The killing of any season is limited to approximately 3-year old animals. No killing of bachelors within the past three or four years at least on the islands has had anything to do with the decrease of adult bulls. Whatever the cause, it dates further back and is dependent upon factors and conditions which are not understood by the agents, but which would in all probability have been clearly understood if the herd had been, since 1897, under expert inspection.

I may say incidentally, with reference to the concluding remark of Mr. Elliott in his letter, that while I formed a very favorable opinion of Mr. Lembkey during his incumbency of a position in the Treasury Department in 1896–97, it is not just to him to say that "he owes his appointment" to my nomination. Nor is it fair to hold Mr. Lembkey responsible for the failure to solve these scientific questions. They demand a training which he doubtless has not had, and in any event they could not have been worked out successfully in addition to the ordinary duties and responsibilities of his position. The naturalist who is to understand the herd must spend practically all his time in observation of the rookeries.

I wish to emphasize again that in recommending the transfer of the fur-seal matter to the Bureau of Fisheries I had in mind the fact that this bureau could provide the scientific inspection and control necessary. I do not wish to embarrass the Secretary with suggestions as to the details of administration of the bureau under his charge. This would not be pertinent. If expert knowledge and supervision could be brought to bear on the control of the herd through any other method of administration than the one proposed the essential point would be met. It will be noted that in my memorandum only two of the four agents need be naturalists or have any connection with the Bureau of Fisheries. The addition of a naturalist to the present staff would answer the purpose if he had power to carry out his plans.

The essential point is the expert study and inspection. After our exhaustive investigations of 1896-97, I made what I considered the one important recommendation—that the herd be placed in charge of a competent naturalist. Now, after eight years, during which much of the value of our work has been lost through failure to follow it up properly, I again make the earnest recommendation that the fur-seal herd be placed in charge of a trained naturalist.

Very respectfully, yours,

DAVID STARR JORDAN,
Former Commissioner in Charge of Fur-Seal Investigations.

LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
Stanford University, Cal., January 26, 1906.

Mr. WILLIAM LOEB, Jr.,
Secretary to the President, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of a letter from Secretary Metcalf bearing date of January 18 and addressed to yourself. In this he speaks as follows regarding the work of the parasitic worm *uncinaria:*

* * * the reports and statistics on file in the department at this time show that during the last three or four years there has been little or no loss of life from this disease. It appears, therefore, that there is no occasion at this time at least to take steps to protect the seal herd from the ravages of *uncinaria.*

This statement, I think, only emphasizes what I said in my letter of the 11th instant regarding this subject. It is true that the report of the agent for 1894 (1904) and 1895 (1905) do not indicate that there has been "any loss of life from this disease," but the significant fact is that the subject is not mentioned at all, and there is no evidence that the proper steps were taken to ascertain the facts. In order to determine the matter in 1896 we went on the rookeries with a force of natives, drove off the seals, and made a foot by foot inspection, with the result that 11,045 dead pups were found, their bodies being gathered together in heaps.

This worm *uncinaria* develops in the small intestine of the young pup, the myriads of threadlike worms sucking out the lifeblood and causing the pup to die of anemia. Where the animal dies, perhaps the worms die also; but where the attack is not severe enough to be fatal, the worms fully develop, depositing their eggs, which are voided with the excrement and retained in the sand during the winter, perhaps indefinitely, for they are found to be very hardy. The following spring they are taken up on the fur of the mother seal as she lies on the sand, are nursed in by the pup, develop, and so carry on their life history. The various stages of the development of the worm were fully studied by members of our commission during the season of 1897. From the nature of the disease it is useless to say that it has ceased to act or will cease without strenuous efforts to combat it. That this disease was operative prior to 1896 is evident from the bones of innumerable pups on Tolstoi, and we know that in 1892 Mr. Macoun, of the British commission, counted 4,500 dead pups on the sands of this rookery. The cause of their death was not known at that time, but it was plain after the investigations of 1896 and 1897.

The situation as shown by the secretary's statement is very similar to that found in 1895, the year before our investigation. In this year Mr. C. H. Townsend for the United States Fish Commission and Mr. F. W. True for the Smithsonian Institution carefully examined the rookeries. Mr. True discussing the question of dead pups speaks as follows in his published report:

I saw a number of dead pups during my sojourn, but I do not think that the total would exceed 150 for all the rookeries of St. Paul. The largest number were found at the north end of Tolstoi rookery, where I observed 70 in one small area and about 25 more a little farther south, on August 15. The area referred to was occupied earlier in the season by a great mass of seals and I regard the number of dead found here as representing the ordinary mortality of the young.

These conclusions were based upon general observations. Mr. True did not go on the rookeries or attempt a close count. In 1896,

having Mr. True's words in mind, we gave the question of dead pups more or less attention in our observations of the rookeries during July and were unable to say that his estimate did not do the situation entire justice for the season of 1896 as well. In August, when the breeding season was over and we were able to go on the rookeries, we made the careful inspection noted above with the result that we found 11,045 dead pups, the area on Tolstoi rookery which occasioned the remarks made by Mr. True contributing 1,875 of the number. This was the same area on which in 1892 Mr. Macoun of the British commission found the 4,500 dead pups.

I cite these examples to show that while the agents may be perfectly conscientious in making their statements as to the absence of loss from this cause in 1893–1895, they in all probability do not know as to the real condition of the rookeries in this respect. They could not without the close systematic work which we gave to it. It may be safely said that of the 75,000 (approximately) pups born on the rookeries in 1905, probably no less than 5,000 of them died as a result of the ravages of this worm.

This matter serves merely again to emphasize the need of definite expert information. I notice that in his report for the past season Mr. Lembkey mentions the epidemic among the blue foxes. He associates it with something similar reported among the reindeer and other animals in other parts of Alaska. He does not seem to have investigated the dead animals. It may have been an epidemic of *uncinaria*, as the foxes in 1896 were seen to feed on the dead pups. Young dogs and young monkeys in captivity are known to die through attacks of *uncinaria*.

Very truly, yours, DAVID S. JORDAN.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR IN REPLY TO A MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT BY DR. DAVID STARR JORDAN, WITH REFERENCE TO THE ALASKAN SEAL SERVICE. BY W. I. LEMBKEY, AGENT ALASKAN SEAL FISHERIES.

History of Pribilof Islands seal herd.—In the latter part of the eighteenth century a profuse migration of fur seals through the Aleutian Passes was noted by the Russian explorers, and efforts were directed to discover their rendezvous. In 1786, after repeated unsuccessful efforts, Gorrasim Pribilof by accident discovered St. George Island, which received the name of his vessel. From the high land of St. George St. Paul was discovered, and was visited shortly afterwards.

Settlements on these two islands were at once made by the Russians. Fur seal, sea otter, walrus, sea lion, and foxes were found there in boundless numbers. The killing of all of these species of animals proceeded with wanton prodigality from the year 1786 until the year 1835, when the fur-seal herd was reduced to 4,100. (Veniamimor de Zapieskie, 1840.) This shrinkage was caused by the indiscriminate killing of both males and females. (Sir George Simpson, Overland Journey. See also Gen. Resanof [governor's] letter to the Russian Government, July 28, 1805.) A closed season was established on the islands from 1835 to 1845–1850, during which only such seals were killed as were necessary to furnish food and

clothing for the natives. Killing of females on land was also discontinued after 1835 and was never again resumed. This resulted in a gradual rehabilitation of the Pribilof herd, allowing an increasing number of young male seals to be taken each year after 1850 until 1870, the date of the commencement of the first lease of the sealing right to the Alaska Commercial Co. From that year, and during the 20 years of this first lease, 100,000 young male seals were killed annually for commercial purposes and the skins marketed, with the exception of the years 1877 and 1883, when, owing to a glut in the market for skins, only 75,000 seals were killed. This reduction, however, was voluntary on the part of the lessee, and was not the result of a lack of seals.

Pelagic sealing.—From evidence adduced before the Tribunal of Arbitration at Paris it would appear that pelagic sealing was nominal from the year 1868 to 1880. From 1881, however, when 10,000 skins were taken by pelagic sealers from the Pribilof herd, the increase in their catch was constant until 1891, when 141,000 skins were taken from the Pribilof and Commander herds, of which 59,568 were from the Pribilofs. Since 1891 the pelagic catch has steadily decreased because of scarcity of seals. During last season (1905) only 15,000 skins, approximately, were taken by the Canadian fleet. The Japanese fleet took only 399 seals, last year, from the Pribilof herd.

The increase of pelagic sealing has had direct relation to the diminution of seals on the rookeries, and the present attenuated condition of the herd is due solely to the killing of females at sea. Land killing of surplus immature bachelors has had no effect whatever on the decrease. (Joint Statement, International Fur Seal Expert's Report, Fur Seal Investigations, 1896–97, pt. 1, pp. 241 et seq.)

The joint statement just referred to was transmitted to the High Joint Commission in 1898, where efforts were made at the time to enter into an agreement with Great Britain to end the pelagic hunting of seals and thereby to rid seal life of the admitted cause of its destruction. The question in all probability would have been settled there but for the interjection before the High Joint Commission of the Alaska boundary dispute, upon the settlement of which the determination of the seal question was made contingent. The boundary dispute has since been settled. The seal question, however, has never been reopened for the elimination of the one admitted factor detrimental to the existence of seal life, namely, pelagic sealing.

With this brief explanatory outline of conditions affecting the seal herd, it is now proposed to answer, as nearly categorically as possible, the statements contained in the memorandum in question, designed to change existing conditions on the islands.

Visits of naturalists, and publications.—The first naturalist to visit the seal islands during American occupation was Henry W. Elliott, in 1872. He also visited the islands in 1874, in 1876, and in 1890. Mr. Elliott's studies were exhaustive, and the reports and books written by him are correspondingly voluminous, the last reprint of his reports covering 538 octavo pages. An exhaustive scientific investigation of seal life was conducted on the islands in 1891–92 by Prof. Mendenhal, Dr. J. Hart Merriam, and Mr. Stanly-Brown, of the United States; Profs. Macoun and Dawson, of Canada; and Sir George Baden-Powell, of England. The reports of these gentlemen, embracing every phase of seal life, were extensive. Mr. F. W. True, of the

National Museum, spent the summer of 1895 on the seal islands, making afterwards a very comprehensive report.

In 1896, and again in 1897, the fur seals and fur-seal islands were the subject of an elaborate investigation under a commission of which Dr. David Starr Jordan was in charge. Associated with him were Dr. Leonhard Stejneger and Frederic A. Lucas, of the National Museum; Jefferson F. Moser, United States Navy; Charles H. Townsend, of the United States Fish Commission; George A. Clark, secretary and stenographer, and Joseph Murray, special agent. The reports of these gentlemen, with special papers by other contributors, filled four large quarto volumes. During both these seasons Prof. Thompson, of the University of Dundee, and Mr. Barret-Hamilton, of the London Museum, were likewise investigating seal life on behalf of Great Britain, the results of which are recorded in two quarto volumes.

About the year 1884 Mr. C. H. Townsend, of the United States Fish Commission, landed on the seal islands. From the time of his first visit until the year 1900, with few if any exceptions, that gentleman spent his summers on the rookeries of the seal islands, returning in the fall to Washington and writing copiously on all matters pertaining to seal life.

Many other scientific investigators have spent more or less time on the islands, studying the flora and fauna, whose observations, it is believed, have been published.

From these statements it can be seen that the seal islands have not suffered in any way from lack of scientific investigation, and that all conditions found there are fully known.

Investigation by Fish Commission.—Under the act of March 3, 1893 (27 Stats., U. S., 585, Feb. 14, 1903), the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries is authorized and required to investigate, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the condition of seal life on the rookeries of the Pribilof Islands. Under this statute, at various times prior to 1900, the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries dispatched to the seal islands the naturalist of his commission, Mr. C. H. Townsend, to investigate the condition of the seal herd. Since 1900, however, although this provision of law still remains in full force, no action of this character has been taken, nor has any effort been made by the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries to exercise his power under the law to secure any additional information regarding seal life. The reason for this is the fact that the principal work of the naturalist so detailed for this duty consisted of an enumeration by actual count of the number of seals on the breeding rookeries at the time of his various visits and the taking of photographs which were designed to show any increase or decrease in the area occupied by the breeding seals. In 1900, during the last visit paid to the islands by Mr. Townsend, he stated that in his opinion further visits by himself or any other naturalist to the seal islands were unnecessary, as the work done by him during those visits had been and could be performed as well, if not better, by the Treasury agents on the islands, with whose work he was familiar and whose data he used gladly. It is a fact that since 1900 the islands have not been visited by a naturalist and that the work previously done by a naturalist, of ascertaining the condition of seal life from year to year, has been performed by the agents in a manner satisfactory to the department.

Practical regulation by scientists.—On the occasion of the investigation, in 1896–97, by Dr. Jordan's commission, their observation of the seal herd suggested a number of so-called improved methods of handling seals, preventing by the adoption of methods on land the decline of the herd. These methods were put into practice under the direction of the Government agents. A brief outline of several of them is here made:

1. The accepted method of killing seals, adopted through years of practical handling of the animals, consists in the driving up of a number of bachelors from the hauling grounds, the separation of this "drive" into small "pods" of from 20 to 40 animals, and the selection of the killables from each pod. The culling is done by expert clubbers who dispatch the killables while in the pod by a single blow on the head. The seals ineligible for killing are then driven off into the sea.

This method, of course, involves the presence of nonkillable seals in the pod during clubbing, side by side with those seals which are to be killed. On rare occasions, by running under the club, or by a glancing blow, some of these ineligibles are injured. To obviate any possible injury to nonkillable seals, the commission devised a chute, with entrance wings and two drop gates at the exit worked by pulleys. By driving the seals through the chute, and alternately opening and closing the two gates, it was sought to release the nonkillables and retain the eligibles to be killed later. The chute proved a flat failure. In its conception, no account was taken of the stupidity of the fur seal and its incapability to choose between two given lines of action. The mere post which separated the two gates at the exit served as a formidable obstacle to the passage of the seals, as the animals, after butting against this post, would turn back the way they came, unmindful of the fact that the gates on both sides of this post were open and offered an exit. With the chute full of seals, they sat down and piled over each other several deep. When a forward movement was finally induced, the animals rushed pell-mell through the gates and appeared on the outside, as innocent of selection as they were before.

2. A method was sought by the commission for the prevention on land of the killing of seals at sea, and the redriving of ineligibles. The plan adopted was the erection by the natives, under direction of the agents, of about 4 miles of wire fencing around a salt lagoon and a fresh-water lake on St. Paul. Into these all bachelors rejected from the killing field were to be driven. After the 1st of August drives were to be made, also from the hauling grounds, and the animals obtained to be incarcerated in the inclosures without food for as long a period as possible, thereby reducing by thousands the available number of animals from which the pelagic sealers made their catches.

In evolving this theory, no account was taken by the scientists of the fact that the fur seal is a creature wholly of instinct, and is not able to adjust itself to any new conditions which prevent it from following the course crystallized into habit by generations of reiterated action. The theory of herding these seals involved the necessity of confining them in places which, under normal conditions, they would never frequent, and for this reason could not be put into

successful practice. The result of the inclosure of seals was disastrous. The animals were impounded by thousands. Once inside the inclosure, finding their return to the rookeries impeded, the animals began following the inside line of fence searching for egress. A path 20 feet wide inside the entire length of lagoon fence was worn bare of vegetation by these traveling seals. This movement was continued until many died of exhaustion. Over 20 carcasses were picked up in one day. They also fell into holes, from which they could not extricate themselves, and perished.

That greater numbers of these imprisoned animals did not die was due solely to the fact that they could not be confined in these inclosures over a day or two. Some climbed over the fence, displaying considerable agility in so doing; others, by main strength, tore holes in the stout wire netting and so escaped; others took advantage of depressions in the ground and forced their way out under the fence. I saw one great bull insert his nose among the wire meshes and by a magnificent display of the wonderful power of his neck muscles, tear the wire as though it were rotten yarn. Emerging through the opening thus made, and catching sight of his comrades on the inside of the fence, he as readily tore another hole through the netting and stupidly rejoined his fellows on the inside. Had the wire netting been a tight board fence, the efforts of the imprisoned seals to escape would have resulted in the death through exhaustion of all confined.

These attempts at incarceration were carried on through several years, resulting in every case in the death of some animals imprisoned and the early escape of the remainder by their own efforts.

These facts outlined above have been reported to the department heretofore only by word of mouth, owing to a reluctance on the part of the agents to furnish any documentary evidence which could be used by Great Britain in any future arbitration proceedings that the death of seals was due in any way to methods practiced on land outside of the regular killing of bachelors.

3. The branding of female pups: As the catch of the pelagic sealers consists mainly of females, especially in Bering Sea, it was thought by the Jordan commission that any means adopted whereby the value of the skins so taken could be impaired, would serve to deal the sealing industry a heavy blow.

From this idea the practice of branding female pups was evolved. It consisted in herding the new-born pups on the several rookeries, segregating all females therein, and so searing their hides with red-hot irons that the hair follicles under the brand would be destroyed and the branded area be denuded of fur. During the year 1896 branding operations were carried on with vigor. Thousands of nurslings were branded with at least one brand, and a large number with two and sometimes three brands. They continued, but with less rigor, until 1903, when stopped by order of the department.

The main reason why branding females was not a success was that if the animal were seared so thoroughly as to destroy the commercial value of the pelt, the animal would die from the effects of the branding; if not branded in this wholesale manner, the value of the skin was not affected materially. In either case no appreciable injury to the pelagic catch resulted.

How many pups were permanently injured through branding, and thereby lost their lives in the water through inability to withstand the hardships of their first migration, can never be known. The Indians along the Aleutian chain reported numbers of pups as being so injured by branding as to render their capture by bidarki hunters an easy matter. These reports, while creating a deep impression among outsiders that great injury to the herd through branding was being wrought, were not susceptible of confirmation. Complete statistics of the number of branded skins contained in the catches of the pelagic schooners are not obtainable. The number of such skins in the whole catches for 1899 and 1900 did not approximate over 75 skins each year. It was reported that the brands on these skins did not injure the value of the pelt over the amount of $1.

Dr. Jordan's remarks on foxes.—At page 339, volume 3, fur seal investigation, and following, Dr. Jordan and Mr. Clark print a chapter on the blue fox of the Pribilof Islands, in the course of which the conduct of the Treasury agents in providing food for the foxes and making artificial selection of the animals left as breeders is criticised, on the ground that such steps were undertaken without definite knowledge as to the facts and needs of the herd. Time, however, has since proved that the criticism was unwarranted and that the fox herd on St. George Island, while as numerous now as it was then, regardless of the fact that in the interval hundreds of the animals have been killed for their furs, has suffered only when the regulations then in operation have not been carried out. On St. Paul Island, where the foxes have not been artificially fed and where nothing has been done for them, the species is about extinct.

On one occasion a celebrated naturalist, walking on the rookeries at Northeast Point, discovered what he supposed to be a number of dead seal cows and reported it to the Treasury agent in charge of St. Paul Island. The Treasury agent telephoned to the watchman at Northeast Point and ordered an investigation, and was shortly after amused by a report from the watchman that the dead animals supposed to be seal cows were in fact sea lion pups and not fur seals at all. The story is repeated here not with the intention of ridiculing anyone, but for the purpose of showing that in matters pertaining to seal life practical experience is often of greater importance than abstract biological knowledge.

The foregoing facts are not adduced for the purpose of attaching discredit to anyone. Their citation here is excusable only in showing that, instead of the seal herds suffering from any lack of practical direction by biologists, every possible suggestion that could be made by as eminent a body of scientists as can be gathered in this country was adopted, fairly tried, and resulted in each case in the abandonment of the idea as impractical if not positively dangerous. In the light of these facts, the position assumed by Dr. Jordan, that the need of such trained supervision of the herd is clearly shown, is plainly untenable.

The net result of the investigations of Dr. Jordan and other scientists on the islands has been to prove unmistakably that pelagic sealing alone is the cause of the decline in seal life. This, as Dr. Jordan states elsewhere truly, is a question involving international action and is entirely outside the scope of either biologists or Government agents. The killing of mother seals at sea once and forever pro-

hibited, the seal herd, by force of nature's own laws, will reestablish itself "on the highly productive commercial basis of two decades ago," without aid from scientists or anyone else. (See Report Fur Seal Investigation, pt. 1, p. 241 et seq.)

Nature of fur-seal question.—It is with considerable surprise that the statement of Dr. Jordan is encountered in his memorandum, that "the fur-seal question is now chiefly, almost wholly, biological in character." We are obliged to point out that this statement is totally at variance with Dr. Jordan's last published utterances on the subject, and with universally recognized facts.

To show that Dr. Jordan heretofore has denied that any biological question concerning the seals was left open to discussion by the commission on the islands in 1896–97, it is cited that in a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee on February 18, 1902, on a bill to appoint a commission of two members at salaries of $5,000 each, to investigate seal life on the Pribilof Islands, a letter was read from Dr. Jordan to the chairman of the committee strongly inveighing against the action proposed. Without quoting his letter in full, the following extract therefrom will accurately portray his opinion:

> As to the provisions of the bill itself, I do not believe that any further investigation is necessary. If you will read the agreement reached by the conference of fur-seal experts (which has already been cited) you will find that all disputed points are settled by the agreement of the joint commissions of investigation. To reopen the question is unnecessary. The agreement fixed the fact of decline, its approximate rate, its cause, and by showing that the continuation of pelagic sealing was incompatible with the maintenance and restoration of the herd, indicated as nearly as need be that the only regulations possible for the protection of the fur-seal herd were such as would abolish absolutely pelagic sealing. This requires international action and is purely a diplomatic question.
>
> The modus vivendi proposed in section 3 of the bill is unobjectionable, but is needless, except for diplomatic purposes. The agreement of 1897 specifically declared the methods of killing on land free from responsibility for the decline of the herd. Such killing is strictly confined to the superfluous males.

Scientific supervision a failure.—In the light of these statements of the efforts of scientists to prevent the decrease of seals by the application of methods on land which have been demonstrated unmistakably faulty, Dr. Jordan's dictum that the present need of these rookeries is the "trained supervision" which these scientists afford is open to contradiction. As a matter of fact, every suggestion made by scientists who have visited the island, outside the scope of scientific research, and designed to change existing methods on the islands, has resulted in failure.

There is nothing complicated about the seal business. In fact, the islands may be compared to a cattle ranch, with the exception that the seals require no feeding or housing, and are absent in the water seven months in the year. All that is necessary is to insure the perpetuation of the species by the guarding of the females from slaughter and the provision of enough males for breeders. With these essential points safeguarded, the killing of the surplus males is not only not injurious, but is a positive benefit to the herd. This is true of both cattle and seals. On a cattle ranch the proprietor saves his cows and bulls for breeders, and markets his surplus males or steers. This same principle, practically, is observed on the islands. No females are killed, and the sufficiency of male breeders is assured by the branding each year of a certain number of choice bachelors, effectively rendering them immune from slaughter.

"Confusion" as to present condition.—Dr. Jordan's statement that "confusion and doubt exist as to the condition of the rookeries during the past seven years" is distinctly negatived by the fact that complete statistics of the condition of the herd during that period are to be found in the reports of the seal agents. On the recommendations made in these reports, the important action reserving bachelors for breeding and restricting their killing, was taken two years ago. Possibly these reports were overlooked by Dr. Jordan.

Discovery of uncinaria.—During the period from 1884 to 1897, at least one competent scientist was present during the summer of each year on the islands, engaged in a study of seal life. Notwithstanding this fact, the presence of *uncinaria* as a cause of death of black pups was not discovered by any scientist until the winter of 1896, when Mr. F. A. Lucas submitted to Dr. Stiles, of Washington, alcoholic specimens of seal viscera, in the hope that that expert might find the presence of a parasite hitherto undetermined in seals, causing death to otherwise healthy young.

The result was the discovery, in black pups, of the intestinal worm *uncinaria* and the ascribing of the death to that agency of thousands of pups which Dr. Jordan had stated to have died from trampling by fighting bulls.

The presence of *uncinaria* was first indicated by a Treasury agent, J. W. Beaman, in 1879. He made an entry in the island log, under date of August 20, 1879, from which the following is an extract:

> Three seals were examined by Dr. White. In all cases the foramon ovulo and ductus arteriosus were closed. They were found open only in the 2-months-old pup from Speel. Microscopic examination revealed a probable parasite to the flat parasitic worm that infests the intestines of the seal.

Dr. Jordan's comment on this entry is as follows:

> These observations seem to have approached very closely the discovery of the parasite *uncinaria*. (Report of Fur-Seal Investigation, pt. 2, p. 272.)

Through the efforts of an agent the presence of a parasitic worm identical with *uncinaria* in the intestines of children on the islands was recently discovered.

Fitness of present agents.—It must be remembered that the present agents of the department have been on the islands for many consecutive years, that they enjoy excellent health, that seal and fox life appeals to them in all its phases, and that in consequence thereof they have acquired a special training in the matter of seals and foxes equal if not superior to that of any biologist, however eminent, who at best has spent but a few months on the islands. In fact, no biologist on either island has been able to handle bull seals with the ease, dexterity, carefulness, and lack of fear displayed by the department's agents in the past few years. During every sealing season since 1898 the agents of the department at present in the service have made daily counts of cows on certain rookeries, occasional counts of bulls on all rookeries, a careful and accurate count of harems at the height of each season, an accurate count of all bachelors dismissed from the killing field, besides a count of all pups born on St. George and about one-third of all born on St. Paul. In 1896–97 the commission counted about one-tenth of all pups born on St. Paul and about one-fourteenth of all born on St. George.

The extension of the work of counting pups far beyond anything attempted by the commission is due largely to the fact that by their

increasing experience the agents have been able to entirely discard the crude methods of the commission for the handling of bull seals, insuring thereby both the safety of the seals and of themselves and enabling them to make thorough and accurate examinations. On page 45, Preliminary Report, Fur-Seal Investigation, 1896, is found the following statement by Dr. Jordan:

> Before the first week in August the ferocity of the bulls was such as to make it impossible to enter the rookeries or even to obtain a dead pup for dissection except on rare occasions when, by means of a fishhook attached to a long pole, a few outlying specimens were secured. On August 5 it was found possible, though with considerable difficulty, to enter the breeding grounds. On this date the count of dead pups was begun and completed on August 12.

On page 96, volume 1, Fur-Seal Investigation, it is stated that the count of pups for 1897 was made between the 28th of July and the 30th of August. It thus appears that the 28th of July is the earliest date that any of the gentlemen comprising the commission ever ventured on the breeding grounds, and then only for the purpose of counting pups. In their counting of harems, massed portions of the rookeries were counted from whatever point of vantage could be obtained.

In making the countings of harems, July 13 to 16, last summer, the agents of the department on the islands actually walked through the thickly massed places on Northeast Point, Reef, Polavina, Tolstoi, and Zapadni, the "ferocity of the bulls" to the contrary notwithstanding, making without doubt the most accurate count of harems ever made on the islands.

When the present agents need a pup or other dead animal seen by them on the breeding rookeries (and many such are saved for museum purposes), they go in and get it without using "a fishhook attached to a long pole."

In a footnote, page 109, volume 1, Fur-Seal Investigation, there is an account regarding a dispute as to an enumeration of pups, in which Dr. Jordan, after deciding in favor of Clark and Macoun, as against Thompson and Lucas, states:

> There is no work in which experience and adaptability count for more than in the counting of live pups. The original count (that made by Clark and Macoun) therefore stands to the recount (that made by Lucas and Thompson) as the work of experts to that of amateurs.

It must be remembered that both the "experts" and "amateurs" above referred to had spent, with the exceptionof Macoun, only two summers on the islands, and that Lucas and Thompson, while classed by Dr. Jordan as "amateurs" in this respect, are recognized by the American and British Governments, respectively, as most competent observers, and also that Lucas was the only man in the commission who made an original biological discovery during the life of the commission, namely, that of the parasitic worm *uncinaria*.

Dr. Jordan's former view as to agents.—On page 387, volume 2, Fur-Seal Investigation, Dr. Jordan says:

> The Government should retain its competent agents during good behavior, as the company does. Messrs. Redpath and Webster have been long in the service of the two companies and have a thorough knowledge of every phase of the practice relating to seals. The Government changes its agents every four years, making appointments a matter of political spoils. * * * When the Government agent has become somewhat experienced, a change puts a new and untried man in his place.

Dr. Jordan is well aware of the fact that in point of service on the islands the present Government agents rank the entire corps of company employees, with two exceptions, and that no change for political reasons has been made for years.

Recommendation impracticable.—The recommendation of Dr. Jordan that two agents only be retained, to have charge of the natives, is impracticable.

By reason of the peculiar conditions surrounding the islands, and especially because of the isolation for eight months at a period, it is absolutely essential that there should be a relief provided for the man who, by virtue of his position, has been locked up for a year with natives whom he must punish and company employees whom he must oppose. The original law, which contemplated a relief every year, was wise without degree. To keep two men on the islands in the positions outlined, year after year, with no provision for their returning at certain periods to the States, would mean simply that each agent, at the end of a year or two, would be compelled to resign, if he had not already gone crazy or been murdered by the enemies he is forced to make in the faithful discharge of his duties.

No logical connection with Fish Commission.—There is no "logical" connection between the Fish Commission and the seal islands. The fur seal is not a fish, but a mammal, and is claimed to be a descendant of the bear. It is slaughtered on land; it breeds on land; it lives on land half the year. In its annual migration the herd is scattered all over the eastern portion of Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean. Its study in the water, except through the medium of pelagic sealing, is impossible.

The equipment of the Fish Commission for the propagation of fish can not in any way be applied to any condition on the seal rookeries. By the use of none of its paraphernalia, or the application of any of its present methods, can a single seal life be saved from death or added to the herd. By reason of the fact that the seal islands are a revenue-producing agency (having produced more revenue than enough to pay the purchase price of Alaska), and of the further fact that the question has been inextricably involved in legal and diplomatic discussion, the service has been attached directly to the Secretary's Office, and no reason is apparent why any change should be made.

Dr. Jordan himself says:

> It is absurd that this animal, which in reality is more like a bear, should be called a "seal," thus confounding it with a distinctly different animal. But these names are all so closely identified with the animals and their history that it is useless to attempt to change them, and so we may expect the "sea bears" of the North Pacific to continue to produce "sealskins" which, though originally and properly taken only on land, will remain the product of a "fishery." (Fur-Seal Investigation, pt. 1, p. 46.)

Revenues from seal islands.—During the lease of the sealing right to the Alaska Commercial Co. from 1870 to 1890, there was turned into the Treasury as income from this lease, $5,981,036.50. The present lessee, the North American Commercial Co., whose lease began in 1890 and expires in 1910, will have paid by April 1, 1906, for sealskins already received by it, $2,852,901.17.

Since 1876 to date there have been expended for salaries and expenses of agents on the islands $337,514.89, and for the support of the native inhabitants since 1893, $234,551.49.

The cost of policing the waters of Bering Sea by the Navy and Revenue-Cutter Service to 1895 amounted to $1,410,721.96. Since that date a patrol more or less nominal has been maintained by the Revenue-Cutter Service. The vessel on such duty, however, performed in each case so much other service in the territory in matters having no relation to the seal islands that it is unfair to charge to the islands more than a small percentage of the cost of operating the patrol vessels. The expense incident to sending the Jordan Commission to the seal islands, exclusive of transportation on vessels of the United States, which embraces the detail of the *Albatross* during at least one summer, was $41,000.31.

Conclusion.—The present agents, during the last six years, have devoted themselves assiduously to the faithful administration of their offices. Not only have they performed all duties indicated by the department, but to make their work complete they have taken every further steps prompted by their knowledge of conditions. Their service has not been a perfunctory performance of duties prescribed, but an unstinted expenditure of time and energy in carrying on a work in which keen enjoyment of the task and justifiable pride in results have furnished the chief incentive.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, February 8, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 6th instant, together with two inclosures from Dr. David Starr Jordan, relative to expert study and supervision of the fur-seal herd.

While one of the naturalists of this bureau could be detailed to visit the seal islands and make such study of the problems involved as may be possible during a single season, it is not believed that a brief inspection of this kind, even by a trained scientist, would prove of material benefit.

The scientific questions involved—the proper ratio of old males, bachelors, young males, and females necessary to the maximum efficiency of the herd, the *uncinaria* and other causes of disease among the pups and also the adults, the modifications in the character of the rookery grounds which may ameliorate or improve the existing conditions, and many other important questions—can not be solved in a single season. The securing of data for their solution must in the very nature of the problems be a slow process. Whether the observations of one or two seasons prove of permanent value will depend largely upon how often they are repeated and how carefully they are verified.

The scientific method should be applied here as elsewhere with problems requiring biological data for their solution, and any rational scheme for the continuous supervision of the herd involves continuous attention to and consideration of the life history of the fur seal during its stay on the islands. Even after the data necessary to a scientific and satisfactory method of supervision have been secured, the expert naturalists can not then be dispensed with; they will still be needed, and continuous supervision by them will be essential. To

then turn the herd over to business agents untrained in the methods of biology would be as fatal as it would be to turn a hospital over to untrained hands after expert physicians and skilled surgeons had once devised and put in operation a scheme for the care of the inmates.

The necessity for expert supervision is readily understood when the past history of the management of the herd is recalled. It is not believed that a single important fact or principle in the care of the herd has been discovered through the observations of the untrained business agents.

It is not fair to the business agents to hold them responsible for the failure; it is the fault of the system which has continuously neglected the biological side of the question.

In view of these facts, I would earnestly recommend that the President be requested to transfer to other positions two of the seal agents and thus enable two competent naturalists to be provided.

In order to carry out the spirit of act of March 3, 1893 (27 Stat., 585), these naturalists should, of course, be of the personnel of the Bureau of Fisheries, and the supervision and control of the fur-seal herd should be lodged in that bureau.

This arrangement would leave two business agents to look after all matters of a business nature and provide two naturalists to have charge of the herd in accordance with the recommendations of Dr. Jordan, in which I fully concur.

If this can be brought about, it is desirable that it be done as soon as practicable. Both of the naturalists should proceed to the islands at the first opportunity, to remain throughout the entire season, and at least one of them should remain there continuously.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, February 10, 1906.

SIR: The department is in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, in which you state that "while one of the naturalists of this bureau could be detailed to visit the seal islands and make such study of the problems involved as may be possible during a single season, it is not believed that a brief inspection of this kind even by a trained scientist would prove of material benefit." You therefore recommend that the President be requested to transfer to two other positions two of the seal agents, and thus enable two competent naturalists connected with the Bureau of Fisheries to be detailed to carry this work on continuously.

In reply thereto you are informed that the department deems it advisable to secure the report of a naturalist as to what is needed in the way of further expert investigation before making any radical change in connection with the fur-seal service. I am advised that naturalists connected with the Fish Commission visited the seal islands almost annually during the period from 1884 to 1900, and compiled valuable statistics relating to the seal herd. The naturalist who visits the islands the coming season should familiarize himself

with these statistics and the data collected by the agents since the expert investigation ceased.

If, after carefully analyzing the information on hand and thoroughly investigating the situation at the islands, the naturalist deems it necessary and advisable to have expert investigations continued uninterruptedly by one or more naturalists, the matter will then receive the attention of the department.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, March 9, 1906.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: You are informed that a naturalist connected with the Bureau of Fisheries will, in all probability, be detailed to make an expert investigation and study of the fur-seal herd on the Pribilof Islands during the coming summer. While the investigation to be made will, of course, be wholly independent of the work devolving upon you and your associates, it is desired that you cooperate with him in every way possible in the furtherance of his work.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 28, 1906.

SIR: The department has been informed that the chartered steamer *Homer* of the North American Commercial Co., the lessee of the sealing right on the Pribilof Islands, is expected to sail from San Francisco on her spring trip to the islands on or about May 19, 1906.

Owing to the fact that this vessel makes the only passage in the spring to the seal islands, arriving there in ample time for the season's work, it is expected that the department agents on the islands will take passage on her. It is suggested, therefore, that the naturalist connected with the Bureau of Fisheries detailed to inspect the fur-seal rookeries, confer at an early date with Mr. W. I. Lembkey, the agent in charge, with a view to taking the steps necessary to secure passage on the *Homer* on the trip above referred to.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Acting Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 31, 1906.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Replying to the department's letter of March 28, regarding transportation to the Pribilof Islands, I have the honor to say that the naturalist of the Bureau of Fisheries detailed to inspect the fur-seal rookeries, has been instructed to confer with Mr. Lembkey with a view to taking the steps necessary to secure passage on the *Homer*.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 4, 1906.

Mr. M. C. MARSH,
Assistant, Bureau of Fisheries, Bayfield, Wis.

SIR: A telegram just received from the North American Commercial Co. states that their steamer, the *Homer*, will sail for the seal islands from Portland, Oreg., May 17. Please make your arrangements to arrive in Portland in time to take passage on that vessel.

Respectfully,

———— ————,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 28, 1906.

Mr. M. C. MARSH,
Assistant, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: During your coming visit to the Pribilof Islands your work will be concerned with the following subjects and questions, and will be guided by the following directions:

1. The adequacy of male fur seals for breeding purposes. The recent alleged scarcity of bulls is important, and you will carefully determine the number of idle and half bulls on the rookeries, and by comparison with earlier conditions ascertain any changes that have occurred, and in what direction, if any, the numbers of these classes of seals are changing.

2. Effective methods of reserving each year a sufficient number of young male seals for the future needs of the herd. You will determine whether any plan of reserving males is made nugatory by subsequent killing, as whether 3-year-olds saved one year are killed as 4-year-olds the next, whether those rejected at one drive are killed in the next, and whether food killings are allowed to affect the reserve. You will inquire into the use of branding as a mark of reserved seals, and the question of a convenient and effective method of branding in general.

3. *The fact and rate of decline of the herd.*—This will form the most important part of your work and will require a census of the breeding

herd. This census should closely follow the methods of the commission of 1896–97, that comparable data may be secured. You will, in fact, duplicate the enumerations made by that commission, at least in so far as it is possible for you to do so. This will involve in detail a count of cows, harem bulls, and pups on the same St. Paul rookeries counted before, a count of other classes of males, idle bulls, half bulls, and wigged bachelors; and a count of harems on all rookeries. The date of counting should correspond as closely as may be with the former dates, and should fall between July 12 and July 20, and the counts on St. Paul between July 13 and 15. The pups, however, should be counted later, between the 1st and 5th of August, and this count should be made with great care.

4. *The mortality of pups.*—So far as known pups may die from starvation as well as from natural causes, such as accidents, trampling, etc., and from one disease, caused by the worm *uncinaria*. To determine the deaths from other causes than starvation, you will inspect the rookeries between August 1 and 10. Deaths from starvation may be expected as early as August 15, but you need make no more than incidental observations on mortality from this cause.

As for natural mortality, however, you will study, as carefully and as thoroughly as possible and by every means at your command, the disease *uncinariasis*, and elicit any new facts possible, of whatever nature. You will also consider practical means for prevention of the disease, as by disinfection of the rookeries by fire or chemical agents, by covering infected areas to keep the seals away, or by any other method whatever which appears to be of any practical use.

You will further endeavor to discover whether any other disease affects the pups, or whether there is at present any unknown cause of mortality.

5. So far as possible and so far as time permits, you will retrace the rookery maps to show their present extent and outline of each, and for comparison with those of 1897, utilizing the marks of the Coast and Geodetic Survey set up in 1897.

6. You will duplicate such of the photographs of 1897, or take such additional ones as appear to be useful in throwing light on the question of rookery contraction or expansion.

7. The work concerning the fur seal permitting, you will make observations on the blue fox (Arctic fox) of the Pribilofs. These will be directed particularly toward the possibility of their infection with *uncinaria* (as from eating dead pups), or any other disease, in view of the agent's report of an epidemic among them, and toward any system of cultivation of this animal which will conserve the species and increase the abundance of foxes to become a source of greater revenue to the Government.

8. Your observations need not be limited to the lines cited, which, however, are first in importance. You will constantly endeavor to discover any facts of interest and importance relating to the fur seal or the fox, whether in the directions mentioned above or not; any observations of a natural history or biological nature which time and opportunity permit you to make will doubtless prove of value.

Respectfully,

———— ————,
Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, April 28, 1906.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Seal Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: This department is sending Mr. M. C. Marsh, of the Bureau of Fisheries, to the seal islands to enable him to make certain studies of the fur-seal rookeries on those islands. He expects to sail for the north on the steamer of the North American Co., scheduled to leave San Francisco on or about May 19, and remain upon the islands until fall.

It is desired that you afford Mr. Marsh every facility possible to enable him to carry on his investigations, and that you issue similar instructions to your assistants.

Respectfully, LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, May 1, 1906.

SIR: The department is in receipt of a telegram from the North American Commercial Co., intimating that on account of the recent disaster at San Francisco the date of the sailing of the company's steamer for the Pribilof Islands may be changed, and stating that the company will notify the department later when the final arrangements regarding the steamer have been decided upon.

In view of this fact, to avoid possible delay on the coast, it is suggested that Mr. Marsh's departure for the coast be deferred until the receipt of further advice from the company, which will be promptly communicated to you.

Respectfully, LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, May 4, 1906.

SIR: The department has been advised by the North American Commercial Co. that the company's steamer *Homer* will sail from Portland, Oreg., for the Pribilof Islands on May 17. It is expected that Mr. Marsh, of your bureau, who has been detailed to make a scientific investigation on the islands during the coming season, will take passage on this steamer.

Respectfully, LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Portland, Oreg., May 24, 1906.

Mr. E. L. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Acting Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: My address will be, until further notice, "Care North American Commercial Co., Hotel Oregon, Portland, Oreg."

I forwarded yesterday the typewritten copy of the pollution article, having noted a few corrections.

The steamer *Homer* arrived here Tuesday night, the 22d, and will sail for the Pribilofs either to-morrow or the 26th. I am in readiness for departure.

Very respectfully,

M. C. MARSH, *Assistant.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Portland, Oreg., May 25, 1906.

Mr. E. L. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Acting Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry,
Bureau of Fisheries.

DEAR SIR: I leave this afternoon on the steamer *Homer* for the seal islands.

I have not yet been informed from the office whether it was able to make definite arrangements for my transportation to and from St. George Island by revenue cutter, about the middle of July. It is understood here that a probable visit to the islands may be made by a cutter about July 15. Mail can reach me by this vessel before the second trip of the company's boat, and should be addressed as already advised, care North American Commercial Co., Hotel Oregon, Portland, Oreg.

Very respectfully,

M. C. MARSH, *Assistant.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Dutch Harbor, Alaska, June 6, 1906.

Mr. E. L. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Acting Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry,
Bureau of Fisheries.

DEAR SIR: I arrived yesterday at Dutch Harbor. The steamer will sail for St. George Island to-morrow, arriving there June 8, and a day or two later will be at St. Paul Island.

Very respectfully,

M. C. MARSH,
Assistant.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 20, 1906.

Mr. E. L. GOLDSBOROUGH,
Acting Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I arrived at St. George Island June 8 and at St. Paul Island June 9.

I have visited several times all the seal rookeries on this island save those at Northeast Point, and have made counts of seals. There is a marked decrease in rookery bulls as against the same dates last year. Kitovi and Lukanin had jointly 25 per cent fewer bulls yesterday than on June 19, 1905. The decrease for all rookeries may not be as high as this.

The steamer *Homer* will leave to-morrow for Portland, via Dutch Harbor. She will leave Portland on the return trip July 26. My address, as before stated, is "North American Commercial Co., Hotel Oregon, Portland, Oreg."

Very respectfully,

M. C. MARSH,
Assistant.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 31, 1906.

Dr. B. W. EVERMANN,
In Charge Scientific Inquiry,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I went to St. George Island July 14 on the cutter *Perry* and returned July 26 on the *McCulloch*. On account of the recent raids on the rookeries the department has directed that the rookeries be not disturbed. This will prevent the pup counts and will considerably curtail my work. I do not see but that it will be best for me to take the company's vessel down in August. She is scheduled to arrive in San Francisco August 28. Accordingly I will do so, and will probably go from there to Bayfield, Wis.

I close this letter here in order to get it on the *Perry*, though it may not reach you sooner than mail by the company's vessel in August.

Very respectfully,

M. C. MARSH,
Assistant.

REPORT ON A VISIT TO THE PRIBILOF FUR-SEAL ROOKERIES IN THE SUMMER OF 1906, BY M. C. MARSH, ASSISTANT, BUREAU OF FISHERIES.

Under instructions of April 28, 1906, I left Washington April 30 for Bayfield, Wis., and there spent two weeks in continuing former investigations unrelated to the seals. In order to reach Portland, Oreg., for the sailing of the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer* on May 24, as directed in instructions of May 7, I left Bayfield May 18 and arrived in Portland May 22. I left Portland on the *Homer* May 25 for the seal islands, arrived at Dutch Harbor June 6,

at St. George Island June 8, and at St. Paul Island June 9. I remained on St. Paul Island until July 14, when the United States revenue cutter *Perry* arrived, with instructions to give me passage to St. George Island. I arrived at St. George Island July 15 and remained until July 26, when I returned to St. Paul Island by the revenue cutter *McCulloch*, no opportunity having offered to return sooner. I then remained on St. Paul until the departure of the steamer *Homer*, August 14, when I took passage for San Francisco.

Census of the herd.—Prior to the height of the season many visits were made to the St. Paul rookeries, and counts were made, usually in company with one of the Government agents, of the daily increasing numbers of bulls and later of the cows until they became numerous. On Lukanin, Kitovi, and the Amphitheater counts were made regularly about every other day until the height of the season. These intermediate counts are submitted. The figures for the various classes of animals at the height of the season are given in the following tables. All these counts for St. George (save of pups) were made by myself and for St. Paul, with the exception of Kitovi, Lukanin, the Amphitheater, and the Northeast Point rookeries. The figures for these are taken from the counts of the Government agents. The necessity of leaving St. Paul July 14, before I had visited these rookeries, prevented me from counting them at the height of the season. All the other St. Paul rookeries were counted July 13 and 14.

Cows were counted at the height of the season only on certain of the smaller rookeries, on account both of the difficulty of counting them on the larger rookeries and because this count is not essential to the census. The "water bulls" are half bulls seen swimming about or loafing in the sea in front of the rookery. A "quitter" is an expressive term adopted by the Government agents for an idle bull, with a more or less definite station, but which takes to the water when approached. In the present depleted condition of the herd this class is plainly recognized, and though insignificant in numbers they are nearly as abundant as the idle bulls.

In accordance with instructions of the department prohibiting visits to the St. Paul rookeries, which involved driving cows into the water after the raids by Japanese sealers soon after the height of the season, no counts of pups were made on this island. All pups on St. George Island were counted by the agents, Messrs. Chichester and Clark, and their figures are here given. At the pup-counting season I was on St. Paul Island.

The census for pups and cows is therefore based on St. George rookeries, and this fact gives an element of uncertainty to the figures for St. Paul. The average harem for St. George is 57.86. If this is applied to St. Paul Island, a considerable increase of cows over 1905 appears. It is obviously incorrect to so apply it, since no one doubts that the cows are fewer in number, and since for the last two years the average harem on St. Paul has been considerably less than on St. George. In 1905 it was 13.3 per cent less, and if this correction is applied for 1906, the St. Paul average harem becomes 50.17. In 1905 it was by actual count of several rookeries 43.52. The average harem has for several years steadily increased. There is a falling off in the numbers of all classes of animals, and the decrease, as in recent years, is more rapid among the active bulls than among

the cows. The percentage of decrease in active bulls on St. Paul is about the same as last year, while on St. George it is much greater, being over 23 per cent. Likewise the decrease of cows on St. George is much greater than last year (11.6 per cent against 4.6 per cent), while on St. Paul the condition is apparently reversed, the cows having decreased but 4.6 per cent against 13.67 per cent last year, though the figures for this year are subject to the uncertainty above mentioned. Likewise the decrease of cows for both islands (5.8 per cent) contains the same error.

Under present conditions two men each with a stout pole can make their way with little danger to practically any point on any rookery at any time in the season.

Without including specific estimates for the different classes of animals which can not be satisfactorily counted, as half bulls, 3-year bachelors, 2-year animals of both sexes, and yearlings, it may be said that in round numbers 200,000 seals visited the Pribilofs the past summer, the number being rather less than more. From this should be deducted the quota, taken from the 2 and 3 year bachelors, something over 14,000, and the losses from disease and starvation, which are not accurately known.

Comparing the present conditions of the herd numerically with those of 1897, the last year of the fur-seal commission's observations, during the intervening nine years the harems have fallen off 68.3 per cent, the idle bulls 99 per cent, the pups (and cows) 44.4 per cent, while the whole herd has been about cut in half.

Young bulls on rookeries after the height of season.—The latter part of July and August a particular effort was made to find half bulls doing rookery duty after the regular harem discipline of the season had become relaxed and the regular rookery bulls had withdrawn to feed or rest. As no count could be made which would definitely give the numbers of these animals the actual notes made at the time bearing on this subject are submitted.

July 28: Drive from Reef hauling grounds. Went to Gorbatch and Ardiguen in the afternoon. One dead 2-year-old cow on Zoltoi. Been dead several days, probably succumbed from last drive or came in from the water. Not wounded. Three half bulls on Zoltoi. These are the first seals seen by me this season on Zoltoi. Only 1 stands his ground. Limps a little in fore flipper. Probably these were rejected from drive this morning. Another on the rocks adjoining. Returning later a decrepit and toothless gray old bull is hauled out on the sands. Slowly makes for the water. Counted harems and cows on Gorbatch Cliffs. Harems much disorganized. Four harem bulls, 1 idle bull, 1 quitter, 65 cows. (July 13, 7 harem bulls, 1 idle, 145 cows.) Between Nos. 22 and 23 were 6 pups alone, no bulls or cows. Three half bulls playing in water in front of rookery.

Attempted to count harems on Gorbatch, but gave it up, as no decent count could be made without frightening off many cows. Forty harem bulls, 2 idle half bulls, 1 idle adult, counted after about one-half the rookery had been covered. Evident that cows and bulls are fewer. Two pods of bachelors on the slope. The first had 8 half bulls (5 to 7 years); second about 12 of 4 years and over.

On Ardiguen 11 harem bulls, 218 cows, none idle. (July 13, 14 harems, 332 cows.) No half bulls on or near Ardiguen.

July 29: Kitovi, Lukanin, and Tolstoi. At two points in front of Kitovi were bachelors aggregating 200. Ten of these 5 to 7 years. Separated, or in small pods, about the rookery 13 bulls upwards of 4 to 7 years, idle. On Lukanin 30 harem bulls in charge of cows were counted. Several, at least 4, of these are young bulls recently come on rookery. Two half bulls idle. No seals on Lukanin Sands. Tolstoi: Three seals seen in the distance under Middle Hill. First seen on these sands this summer, despite many observations. Whether old bulls resting or bachelors could not be made out. About 200 bachelors just off Tolstoi Sands (hauling grounds), on the rookery portion. About 25 of these are 5 years old and upward. There was a drive from this place yesterday. None of these seem to be rookery bulls of this season. Many 2-year-olds in front of rookery. Scanning the water front at a distance with the glass some 10 to 15 half bulls were made out. It is evident that a number of them, 4 to 5 years old, have entered the rookery and are chasing about and playing with the cows; no count of all bulls could be made on account of frightening cows.

August 7: Judge and I went to Tolstoi to get some dead pups if possible. Harem system almost broken up. Cows lay prone for the most part and many bulls gone. About 13 seals scattered along under Middle Hill. Mostly adult bulls, by glass. Several large bulls lay on end of Tolstoi sands, but the bachelors formerly hauling here this summer have withdrawn to the grass and rocks adjoining and just above the rookery; over 100 here.

August 10: Gorbatch and Ardiguen. Along the first half of Gorbatch only 2 young bulls (under 7 years) were seen. None along water front. Harems are open to the young bulls now; comparatively few of the rookery bulls of the season present. Cows hauled far back. No counts made. Cows alarmed at slightest disturbance. Further part of Gorbatch not examined. On Ardiguen there were but 5 bulls, 3 of these young, one only 4 years apparently. Only 2 of the season's regular bulls left. No water bulls. Cows much scattered.

Throughout the season the sands of English Bay, Lukanin, and Zoltoi were of course frequently examined, but no seals at all hauled save the few on Zoltoi and Middle Hill at the end of the season, as mentioned above. Zapadni Head was visited once, when 3 bachelor seals were seen. North Shore has been visited once, but no seals seen.

The number of half bulls mentioned in the preceding notes, though not large, is not inconsiderable in the present state of the herd. The number of large rejections on both islands, which shows a heavy increase over last year, is for the quota driving season, 2,089, and this is the best index of the abundance of half bulls. The increase must be due to the reservations of killables in 1904 and 1905.

The census shows the continued decline of the herd. The scarcity of adult bulls, which has occasioned some concern in recent years, becomes still more pronounced as shown by the heavy decrease in harem and idle bulls. The end of this state of affairs is foreshadowed in the considerable increase of half bulls, the estimate of these being based on the largely increased number of large dismissals. This is the natural result of the annual reservation by branding of 2 and 3 year old bachelors, which began in 1904.

The question of the adequacy of male fur seals for breeding purposes is not one which should occasion alarm. The reservations of male life have not yet affected the breeding bulls and the numbers of these constantly decreasing for years are now at their lowest ebb. The average harem has nearly doubled since 1897. Just what the needs of the herd are with respect to adult bulls has never been determined. It is possible that the number of active bulls might vary within quite wide limits without affecting the welfare of the herd one way or the other, but it is more likely that there is a normal harem of narrower range in size, which makes the best conditions for the increase of the herd. No one questions that in 1897 there was no possible doubt of the adequacy of male life, there being more idle bulls ready and willing to manage harems than there were bulls in possession of harems. The question may now arise whether, under the present conditions, with the idle bull class almost extinct and each harem master serving about 50 cows, the ideal harem relations, as to numbers, are realized; whether a bull can properly manage many more than 50 cows; or whether the limit of safety has already been passed and too great a tax placed upon the active bulls, with the result that some cows have failed of impregnation, or some other form of injury to the herd resulted. Such other form of injury may be conceived to be the propagation of seals by bulls physically inferior which are enabled to hold harems by reason of the lessened rivalry due to fewer bulls and the absence of idle bulls, and the results of this would not be apparent until some years thereafter. It is not known that any evidence has yet been found that the herd is deteriorating from this cause.

Some observations were made during the present summer which have a bearing on the capacity of the bull seal in relation to the size of the harem. The journal of the fur-seal commission records two occasions on which two copulations by the same bull were observed the same day by Mr. F. A. Lucas. On July 6, 1897, a bull on Lukanin rookery served 2 cows within one hour, and 5 minutes later successfully fought off a rival. Next day on Amphitheater 1 bull served twice within 40 minutes. This season on North rookery July 17, between survey Nos. 3 and 4, 1 bull served twice within 20 minutes. The duration of the first service was 6 minutes, of the second, 3 minutes. Presumably 2 cows were concerned, but this was not determined with certainty. On July 23 on North rookery in the breeding mass between Nos. 10 and 11, one bull served about 11 a. m., the duration being about normal, 5 or 6 minutes, though not exactly observed. In the afternoon after two different visits to the place, a third visit at 5.45 p. m. discovered a second observed service by this bull lasting 6 minutes. The interval between the two was about 7 hours, and in the meantime he may have served other cows unobserved, as he was seen to go through the preliminaries without actually covering.

It should be remembered that the above occurred after the height of the season had passed, and after the bulls concerned, which had good-sized harems (massed at these points), must have already had much service. The harem master's actual service of cows is spread over a period of perhaps 40 days. (Service was observed as late as Aug. 3 this season.) It would seem that an average service of 2 cows per day or 80 cows during the season would be a mere bagatelle

for an animal whose great vitality and whole energies are almost entirely given over to this purpose during the season. The difficulty lies in the fact that his attentions are not distributed uniformly throughout the period of service. At each end of the season little is required of him, but since the cows arrive rather rapidly just before the height of the season, several of his harem would come in heat each day for some days about the middle of July. One may get some idea of the number under present conditions by the counts of Kitovi rookery for the present season. The first cow arrived between June 17 and 19. The counts were made about every second day up to July 13. The following table shows the average number of cows per harem bull, actually present when each count was made. There were always some bulls without harems and of course early in the season relatively many.

	Harem bulls.	Cows.	Cows per harem bull, average.
June 19	1	1	1.0
21	8	8	1.0
23	12	16	1.3
25	21	37	1.7
27	28	85	3.0
30	30	180	6.0
July 2	31	281	9.0
4	27	434	16.0
6	34	651	19.1
8	35	846	24.1
11	40	1,028	25.7
13	40	950	23.7

From this it appears that the greatest average increase of cows per harem bull occurred between July 2 and 4, or between July 6 and 8, namely, 5 cows for each 2-day interval. Since about half the cows only are present at once this may be multiplied by 2, giving 5 cows as the largest accession to any harem bull in 1 day, on the average, for Kitovi rookery. Five cows per day might therefore come in heat at once, but only for a day or two, and on all other days a fewer number. How long cows unserved remain in heat is not known. Bishop Veniaminof in his account of the sea bear says: "The sikatch is able to cover from 15 to 24 females in 24 hours."

On the whole the evidence all supports the belief that the bulls the past season were able to perform all the service required of them.

Methods of reserving young males.—In 1904 the practice of marking and releasing a number of bachelors of killable age for the express purpose of securing an adequate increment to the class of harem bulls, was begun and has continued each year. The number, 1,000 two-year-olds and 1,000 three-year-olds, seems entirely adequate. The mark of identification or brand is made by clipping the hair and fur on top of the head with shears. The mark is conspicuous and can be made out from a considerable distance. The head brand is preferable to a mark on the body as far as protection at the killings is concerned. Many seals are clubbed when the body is largely concealed by other seals in the pod, and no place for carrying the brand more constantly visible than the top of the head could be found. Even then when seals are wet the brand tends to be obscured, and a few branded seals are inadvertently killed each year. It is easy, however,

to make effective the reservation of males in this way. The branding is expeditious and requires little apparatus. For St. Paul Island it was accomplished in three drives, June 15, 22, and 23, representing only several hours' work.

The 3-year branded seals are in no danger of killing as 4-year-olds, since 4-year-olds are not killed. The brand, however, is entirely temporary and has disappeared by the following season. Some of the 2-year-old brands may therefore be, and are, killed the next year as 3-year olds. The 2-year brands mainly provide 3-year-olds for the following season, and the permanently reserved seal comes mainly from this class. Since there are only 1,400 harem bulls, it seems plain that 1,000 three-year-olds are more than sufficient to replace losses and effect an increase in their number.

Food killings do not affect the reserve particularly. In the fall the brand would still to some extent protect. In the spring presumably some branded seals, on which the brand no longer shows, may be killed, but the number can not be large.

The temporary brand is as effective as any if placed upon the oldest killables, which will be the next year protected by their age and size. A permanent brand on the 2-year-olds would merely have the advantage of persisting on the 3-year, and all the brands might then be placed on the 2-year class. The brand with shears is certainly the most convenient and effective method at present known for reserving seals. To compete with it any form of permanent branding must needs have nearly the same certainty and rapidity of application and freedom from cumbersome apparatus, since permanence itself does not add greatly to the value of a method for this purpose. It is desirable that the branding quota be quickly secured and marked, that the drives for the quota of skins may proceed unhampered.

It is perhaps too much to say that it is unlikely that a permanent brand which burns the skin can be applied with the convenience and rapidity of the present temporary brand. Electrical branding, approved in principle by the fur-seal commission, has never, it appears, received a thorough test on the branding grounds. Few burn brands have been made of recent years on the seal islands. It is desired to offer two suggestions concerning methods of making such brands. A red or white hot metal rod or wire, kept almost constantly in this condition, is required. In the electrical method the metal was heated by electricity, and this may prove the acceptable method of the future. The metal may be heated in other ways. A rod raised to white heat by a blast of burning gasoline or other vapor, after the fashion of the physician's paquelin, offers a method for experiment. The apparatus involved would probably be simpler than the machinery required by the electrical method. The difficulty would probably come in lack of durability of the metal branding points, which must sear the oily hair, fur, and thick skin. The principle of this device is actually used for soldering irons.

In considering the above one comes to doubt the necessity of any any highly heated metal with which to deliver the brand. A naked blast of nonluminous flame could be delivered from a metal tube, somewhat like that of the plumber's or painter's torch or of various blast-lamp devices, or this flame could be delivered in the form of a sheet. Since the region of high temperature would be less sharply defined than with the metal, a pattern or stencil, say of asbestos,

would be necessary, in which the brand was cut. The blast should play upon this stencil, applied to the seal, long enough to burn through the fur and scar the skin. The torch itself need be no larger or heavier than could be held in the hand and so applied. This would seem to allow rapid branding. The brand itself would probably not be so conspicuous at a distance as that made by shears.

Aside from branding the reserve quota an improved method of permanent branding is desirable for the purpose of securing certain data concerning the herd, such as the natural term of life of the animals, their movements, return to the same rookeries, etc. These questions will probably some time be definitely answered and branding affords a feasible means helping to this end.

A rapid, certain, and harmless method of permanent branding would replace all other methods, for whatever purpose it is desired to mark the seal.

Mortality of pups.—Following instructions, it was intended to examine dead pups for *uncinariasis*, and to test bacteriologically the blood of dead pups in cases where the cause of death did not appear, in order to determine causes, if any, of pup mortality at present unknown. Uncinariated pups were not expected in any number before the middle of July or later. Nevertheless early in the season many efforts were made to find dead pups in the hope of getting the earliest specimens infected with *uncinaria*. Scarcely any were found early in the season about the edges of the rookeries, or visible from outside the rookeries. On July 4, several large harems were driven off Reef rookery in the search for dead pups, but only one was found. Up to July 14 only 7 dead pups had been secured on St. Paul Island. The cause of death was determined in every case but one which had been nearly eaten up by gulls. One had been trampled, one starved, one stillborn, and three suffocated before breathing was well established. One dead pup examined on St. George Island had died of a malformation of the intestines. On St. Paul, July 28, one pup was found on the outskirts of Gorbatch rookery. It had been dead a long time, was in very bad condition, but was examined and found free of *uncinaria*.

All pups were examined for *uncinaria* save those whose condition made it useless or unnecessary. No *uncinaria* was seen at any time during the season. Following are the notes of the autopsies on dead pups:

July 4: One dead female from Reef. Secured after driving off cows from large harem. Fur rather wet, but body cold and had been dead perhaps one week. Eyes picked out (gulls). Viscera seem fresh, no odor of decomposition. Lungs collapsed, but pup had breathed. Left lung normal, right lung with tear or wound which had bled, leaving clot in thorax. Ribs not broken. Death from trampling. Intestines slit and examined; normal, no *uncinaria*.

July 4: One dead female brought by Mr. Judge from Kitovi. Lungs atelectatic. Pup had never taken a breath—stillborn or immediately suffocated. Other organs normal. Examined intestines carefully. No *uncinaria*.

July 5: One female from Little Polovini. Apparently in good condition and of good size. Eyes in place. Been dead only few days. Organs normal. About 6 inches of cord attached. Lungs

with a few small areas containing air, rest atelectatic. Suffocated as it was getting its first gasps.

July 11: One well-nourished female with placenta attached, from Vostochni. Trampled or suffocated. Another near Hutchinson Hill. Intestines normal. No *uncinaria*. Lungs with little air. Suffocated.

July 11: Morjovi. Along sand beach of Walrus Bight 2 dead pups washed up by surf. One decomposing, eyes gone, body greatly emaciated, without blubber. Probably starved. Other more fresh, but partly eaten by gulls.

July 20: North rookery. St. George Island. Near harem on the flat rocks at No. 14, one dead pup. Comparatively fresh. A few inches of umbilical cord attached. On opening, remarkable malformation of intestines. Duplication of large intestine. Stomach normal to pylorus. There a large intestine began, resembling a normal large intestine, but longer and much more widely distended. It ended in two constrictions, blind. A small intestine then began, its blind end hung in the mesentery close to the end just mentioned, but in no way connected with it. This small intestine was of about normal length or somewhat shorter and connected properly at a normal cæcum with a normal large intestine, which was full of masses of light-colored firm waxy material. There was no continuity to the digestive tract and food could not pass through. All the milk ingested had remained in the first-mentioned large intestine, which was distended with gas and foul material. The small intestine contained nothing but mucous secretion, and food had never passed through it. The large intestine from anus to cæcum had probably never voided, and the waxy masses must have been in place at birth. There was considerable blood free in abdominal cavity, none in thorax. Lungs had been only partly filled with air and breathing had been imperfect. Pup probably lived very few days, but had lost placenta. Was of good size and otherwise normal, and had plenty of subcutaneous fat. Killed by failure of functions due to malformation.

July 28: One dead pup on Gorbatch. Very badly decomposed. Fur coming out. Examined small intestine. Many gas bubbles of decomposition held in intestinal wall, but no *uncinaria*. Did not look further for cause of death on account of condition of the specimen.

Little can be said from observations the past summer of the status of the disease caused by the parasite *uncinaria*. Failure to find it early in the season does not mean very much, since its ravages are not expected until later. Since, however, prior to the season for starved pups, not many dead pups were seen, it is unlikely that it caused heavy losses. On July 13, while counting Reef rookery, only 2 dead pups were noticed. On the other hand, it is probably maintaining its existence, while the lessened numbers of the seal herd afford somewhat less favorable conditions for its spread.

While the instructions from departmental authority prevented entering the rookeries at the proper season for obtaining uncinariated specimens, a great increase in dead pups could be observed from the rear of the rookeries the latter part of July and the first half of August. The starved pups, however, become a large factor at this time, so that no significance is attached to this fact as far as the parasite is concerned. Evidence of pelagic sealing was abundant about the

islands in July, as well as in August, and many pups starved before the legal opening of the pelagic season. On August 10 when cautiously proceeding along the rear of Gorbatch, without disturbing the rookery population, in the little basin near survey No. 12, 9 dead pups were seen, and 7 of these had plainly starved. Besides these 3 or 4 starvelings were seen on or near the same small area.

It was not intended to pay any but incidental attention to starved pups. The Japanese raid on Vostochni rookery, however, afforded some evidence on a considerable scale of the length of time required to starve pups. On July 17 the Japanese killed 180 cows. Four times thereafter the dead pups were counted on the area occupied by the cows.

40 pups died within 9 days.
27 pups died between the 9th and 14th day.
64 pups died between the 14th and 18th day.
53 pups died between the 18th and 26th day.

184

While on the 26th day 9 starvelings had not yet succumbed. Of these 193 pups, of course some were dead as a result of cows killed at sea, and probably some of the 180 killed on land had not yet, on July 17, been delivered of their pups. Most of the counts were made by Mr. Judge.

The feces of pups and adult bulls was examined by the microscope for *uncinaria* or its eggs. In that from pups no parasites or eggs were seen. Samples freshly obtained from rookery bulls early in the season showed frequently the living eggs of (probably) *Ascaris* in process of segmentation. Since these nematodes are known to almost constantly inhabit the seals, the eggs were to be expected. In addition to these, an elliptical egg was occasionally seen. It was dead, with the contents more or less disintegrated. Though seen only singly and in an occasional field of the microscope, their numbers in the intestinal contents must have been appreciable, since a very small amount of material was examined in each field. The identity of these eggs is yet unknown. They are of the general form of *uncinaria* eggs, which were not available on the islands, for comparison. Recently in Washington I was permitted to examine the egg of *uncinaria lucasi*, the seal parasite, by the courtesy of Dr. C. W. Stiles, the author of the species. From this examination the fecal eggs are with reasonable certainty not those of the seal *uncinaria*. They are more pointed and some approach an oval outline. They are probably nematode eggs of an allied group and may, of course, come from any of the sources from which the seal gets its food. Though the hypothesis that the rookeries are reinfected each spring or summer by the older animals does not receive much support from these observations, it is a suggestive fact that the bulls void elliptical nematode eggs approaching the form of *uncinaria* eggs, and future search should be made on many individual seals for similar eggs, since it may be only occasional animals which carry the reinfection.

At the quota drives a considerable number of bachelors were examined throughout the length of the small intestine for *uncinaria*. All these animals were healthy and vigorous and the intestines were without lesions.

Maps of the present rookery area.—Instructions directed the retracing of rookery maps as far as possible to show the present outlines of

the rookeries for purposes of comparison with past and future conditions. In accordance several maps are submitted herewith which fulfill the instructions in a modified form. On these the position of each harem bull is indicated by a filled circle in red, and idle bulls are so marked. The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey maps of 1897 were thus marked for Gorbatch, Tolstoi, Little Zapadni, Polovina, and Little Polovina rookeries on St. Paul, and for North, Staraya Artiel, Zapadni, and East Cliffs rookeries on St. George. In addition to this the number of cows actually present in each harem at the height of the season counts was indicated on the maps for Gorbatch Cliffs, Ardiguen, Lagoon, Tolstoi Cliffs, Zapadni Reef, Polovina Cliffs, Lukanin, Kitovi, and Amphitheater on St. Paul, and East Reef and Little East on St. George. The positions of the bulls on Lukanin, Amphitheater, Kitovi, Tolstoi Cliffs, and Gorbatch were marked a few days prior to the height of the season, and the maps were reconstructed later by slight changes to agree with the height of the season count. All the others were made at the height of the season.

No actual outline of breeding masses of seals is traced on these maps, but as the cows are never far from the harem master a substantially correct idea can be obtained of the rookery extent. The position of the bull on the map was not obtained by measurement but was marked with the aid of the survey numbers, the contour lines, and other topographical points indicated on the maps and still recognizable on the land. It is believed that the red circles represent with reasonable accuracy the position of the bull at the height of the season.

Photographs.—It was not thought necessary to photograph the rookeries extensively for the purpose of showing their contraction, which is so much more definitely shown by the census and by the maps. The few days of the height of the season were filled with the work of making these counts and maps. A few exposures, however, were made on Ardiguen and Amphitheater, prior to the height of the season, in the latter case duplicating certain photographs of 1897. All views of the upper level of Ardiguen would show no seals whatever and have shown none for some years. The seals at present are close down by the sea and do not even extend up the "slide."

The Arctic fox.—My instructions directed that observations be made on the foxes of the Pribilofs, particularly with reference to their diseases, if any, and looking toward any measures that might conserve and increase the herd. On St. Paul Island the foxes are nearly wiped out. One sees only occasionally a fox, or a pair of foxes. Consequently not much material representing diseased specimens could be expected, though three or four carcasses in an advanced stage of decay were seen during the summer. During the 10 days spent on St. George Island many foxes were seen and were a source of continual interest. Only one dead fox was seen, a young one of the season, with a portion of the umbilical cord still attached. It lay at arm's length from the mouth of the warren, and though it had probably been dead some days, it was in fairly good condition. It was intended to dissect this specimen, but the vixen, hovering close and showing anxiety to recover it, was allowed to pick it up, whereupon she quickly hid it in some rocks nearby, where it could not be found. However, cultures could not have been made, as the materials for

this purpose were on St. Paul. Of course many of the young die under natural conditions, as is the rule among wild animals. It is, however, entirely possible that some specific infection forms a part of the cause of these deaths, and while knowledge of this fact would not insure its prevention, it would be a first step in any attempt to reduce this death rate. It is evident, however, that there was no fatal epidemic or disease prevalent among the adult foxes the past summer.

It is desired to call attention to the reports of Mr. James Judge, an assistant agent of the department, particularly one of date July 10, 1903, on the subject of the foxes on St. George Island. This report is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the Pribilof fox herd from both the natural history and economic standpoint, and must form the basis and starting point of future work on the foxes. It includes observations on the habits and food of the animal, its abundance, size and weight, the management of the herd, offers explanations of certain cases of unusual mortality, and sets forth a reasonable plan of improving the herd by selecting, branding, and releasing the superior animals and killing the inferior for the skins. This plan of improvement by selection began in the season of 1902–3 and is believed by its author to have shown its first results during the past trapping season. It is not likely that it is the whole secret which will lead to the recuperation of the herd to its former numbers, but it seems commendable on general principles. The question of polygamy of the fox, important in its bearing on management of the herd, is not discussed, and the balance of evidence cited is perhaps somewhat in favor of polygamy, but it is regarded as still an open question. Certain periods of unusual mortality among foxes are cited and are referred to three chief causes—starvation, salt meat (unfreshened seal carcasses), and ice about the islands. Epidemic disease is dismissed as a cause of large mortality among foxes. Artificial feeding is held to be necessary for the support and increase of the herd, and its present management is based upon belief in the total inadequacy of natural available food as a means of subsistence of even the present diminished herd throughout the year. Facts and observations are cited tending to show that the food furnished by the sea at the beach is insignificant in amount. On St. George not only are all seal carcasses not used for human food lightly salted for seal food, but large quantities of dried salmon are purchased for the same purpose.

Foxes certainly get some food from the rookeries, independent of seals killed by man, since the placentas are frequently seen about the warrens and the young have been observed chewing them. The winter must in any case afford much less food than summer. The question, then, suggests itself whether the fox may not store up by abundant summer and autumn feeding vitality which tides him over the season of scarcity and fasting just as a bull seal acquires during winter and spring the condition which permits a three months' fast.

It is difficult to correlate the large catch of foxes from 1842 to 1862 with the size of the herd. For this period an average of 1,800 fox skins per annum were taken on both islands, and the number on St. George alone was never less than 1,000. The seal quota is not given by years, but during these 20 years 372,894 sealskins were taken from the Pribilofs, or an average of 18,600 annually. The average quota for these years was not, therefore, very greatly in

excess of the present quota. But this quota may not be an index of the size of the herd at this time, since the product of the hauling grounds was not always completely or largely taken. Since the herd was greatly diminished in 1834, it had probably not recuperated to its maximum in the early part of this 20-year period. On the other hand, since in 1864 the herd was near a maximum, the latter part of the period certainly saw a very large seal herd, without any great increase in fox skins taken as compared with the early part.

It should be remarked in passing that the figures for the fox catch on the Pribilofs from 1890 to 1896, given in part 3, page 340, of the report of the fur-seal commission, seem to be largely erroneous; at least they do not agree with the logs of the two islands.

The following figures are extracted from the St. George log:

Blue-fox skins taken.

Year.	Number.
1890–91	1,123
1891–92	
1892–93	929
1893 (Dec.)	557
1894–95	
1895–96	251
1896–97	355

As for "any system of cultivation of this animal (the blue fox) which will conserve the species and increase the abundance of foxes to become a greater source of revenue to the Government," quoting from my instructions, I acquired no information on which to base a recommendation for any different general method than that of continued selection and preservation of the best animals as practiced by Mr. Judge. This practice in fact might profitably be followed independent of any additional measures. More attention, however, should be given to the mortality problem. Microscopical and bacteriological examination should be made of the organs, tissues, and blood of dead foxes of any age. *Uncinaria* has been found by Dr. C. W. Stiles in dead seal pups born in the zoological park of parents from the Pribilof Islands. The parasite is not *uncinaria lucasi*, that of the seal, but another form—a very interesting fact.

Of course observations of the animals in rutting season should be continued, as it will accumulate data bearing on the relations of the sexes, though no doubt slowly on account of the difficulty of identifying and following up individuals.

The report of Mr. Judge is dwelt upon in some detail both to show that the fox question has received intelligent study and treatment which has resulted in bringing to light interesting and useful facts, and that despite this some fundamental questions remain unsettled. It is not certain whether the sexes pair or whether the females should be in excess. It can by no means be safely concluded that no diseases decimate their numbers. It is not clear whether or not the former abundance of foxes was dependent on or related to the size of the seal herd. It is held, and very plausibly, that the foxes need artificial feeding; but if so on what did the large herd of former years subsist when no attention was paid to feeding? In brief, the

essential cause for their present scarcity has not been found and a knowledge of it may put a new face on the fox problem.

Miscellaneous.—On June 25 at Northeast Point an unusual opportunity occurred to witness a rookery of sea lions, in company with Mr. Judge. It was at the point near No. 41. The wind was blowing from the rookery toward us and the heavy surf increased the uproar made by the animals and wind. The sea lions usually take fright and make for the water at the slightest disturbance. On this occasion after surveying them with glasses at a distance we walked rapidly nearer and to the very edge of the breeding area, and though they were thrown into much confusion only the cows and a few bulls left the rookery. The remaining bulls seemed scarcely to realize the presence of intruders and took little notice, but fought with each other and disported themselves, some only a few feet from our position. The pups were all about us, 125 being counted from where we stood, and there were from 200 to 250 on this rookery. The cows which had fled to the water remained swimming about close by, and all classes united their voices in an indescribable roar.

The same day near No. 62 on Vostochni a sea-lion harem consisting of one bull, one cow, and a pup was surprised. The bull immediately left while the cow was asleep and the pup nursing. On awakening the cow promptly took to the water while the pup remained and seemed pleased when the top of its head was scratched. This cow had a large hemispherical swelling about the size of two fists on the side of its neck. This growth was apparently a tumor. On June 29 near No. 84 of the same rookery the same harem was seen again. The cow had the same unusual growth on the neck and was doubtless the same animal. Both bull and cow immediately plunged into the water. The pup remained curled up asleep and did not awake until it had been gently stroked and its head scratched for some time. Slowly it awoke and gazed stupidly for awhile and finally, being petted and scratched meanwhile, became alarmed and scrambled slowly into the water. It could swim pretty well, and set out along a course parallel to the shore line. In the meantime the cow and bull were not far offshore, the cow bawling loudly and scanning the shore line for the pup apparently having lost knowledge of its whereabouts. The pup a considerable distance away finally turned shoreward as if to haul out again and was lost sight of, but the cow, after we left, came ashore at No. 84 looking for the pup and calling at intervals.

Temperature of seals.—The following temperature readings were taken on the fur seal:

Date.	Drive.	Heart.	Rectum.	Throat.	Age.	Condition.
June 30	Northeast Point	41	43	41	3 years	Much hazed.
July 2	Reef	39	39½	39½	2 years	Less excited. Weather cool.
2	do		38½	38½	3 years	Do.
7	do	39	39	39½	do	Cool and wet. Little hazed.
7	do	39	39	39	do	Do.
7	do	39½	39½	39+	do	Do.
7	do	39	39	39½	do	Do.
Aug. 10	Gorbatch rookery		37½		Pup	

Nearly all driven seals are visibly excited and usually show evidence of heating by panting and fanning with the flippers. Their actual temperature is above the normal. All the driven seals probably

have an elevation of bodily temperature. Those of June 30 were much exhausted and heated by the drive, mainly on account of the weather. Cool and wet conditions exhaust and heat the seals in drives much less than warmer and drier weather. The pup examined August 10 was seized and a reading quickly taken, presumably before the excitement had time to affect the reading. The normal temperature is probably that of this pup, or about 37.5° C.

The Coast Survey numbers.—The Coast and Geodetic Survey numbers, printed on the maps and painted on the rocks of the rookeries, were of considerable assistance in various ways, particularly in marking the harems on the maps. The painted numbers have been renewed frequently and are usually conspicuous. Some of them, however, have disappeared entirely, as on Polovina Cliffs, where possibly the stone has crumbled or been located close to an edge which has later fallen.

Collection of fishes and crustacea.—Incidentally advantage was taken of the opportunity to secure some of the the tide-pool fishes, the sticklebacks from salt water and from the fresh-water lakes, and the small crustacea which abound in some of these lakes. Large numbers of both young and adult of both the marine and lake sticklebacks were thus secured. The tide-pool fishes were sculpins. One young Alaska pollock was taken from a pool on the edge of the Lagoon left by the tide. Mr. Lembkey contributed one specimen of a gunnel without label, but taken on St. Paul Island, date unknown. From the upper ice-house lake, from Webster Lake, and a smaller lake adjoining, through which the seals are driven, a considerable quantity of minute crustacea, mostly *entomostraca*, was taken. These lakes swarmed with them.

Relations with the agents and lessees.—The chief agent, Mr. W. I. Lembkey, and his assistants, gave me every possible opportunity to carry out my instructions, and I received, besides, numerous courtesies from them. Likewise the lessees, from whom subsistence and quarters were obtained and passage to and from the seal islands, provided me with a workroom, transportation about the island, and various courteous assistance.

Biological study of the seal herd.—The Pribilof Islands furnish an almost unique opportunity for the study of the fur seal. The investigations of the fur-seal commission of 1896–97 have shown in an epoch-making way the correlation of the natural history of the seal with its economic possibilities. They have established the general principles which must govern the management of the seal herd to maintain it at its highest productiveness. The management of the herd is thus a biological problem. The herd is now at low ebb, perhaps the lowest in the memory of anyone living. In the course of its increase, which must sooner or later come to its former maximum or a greater, new conditions and questions must arise. Some of these have already been foreseen, others will be unknown until they present themselves. It is probable, for example, that disease, almost inevitably incidental to an animal of the habits of the fur seal and definitely known to exist in the Pribilof herd, is at present little evident or in abeyance, corresponding to the greatly diminished numbers of the seals. Even in 1897 important losses are known to have occurred from this cause, and with the rookeries again rapidly extending it may be predicted with entire confidence that this check on the herd

will increase faster than pro rata with the increase of the herd. A study of this phase of the seal problem, though not, of course, necessarily resulting in the abatement of the evil, would obviously be the proper step.

The large quantities of marine food, and particularly of fish, consumed by the seal suggests immediately the interrelation, the interdependence of the seal, and other fishery questions. The seal feeds largely on salmon, and as the herd increases its effect must be felt by the salmon industries which have developed largely on the Pacific coast since the former greatness of the seal herd. The seal fishery is thus one of many which depend on the resources of the sea, and which is not independent but interlocked in a mutual adjustment. The injury of one may be the concern of others or of all.

The desirability of biological study of the seal herd is manifest in two general directions. One of these, an economic one, is of the more immediate and practical importance to the Government. One need only cite the investigations of the last fur-seal commission, which satisfied both sides of the fur-seal controversy of the essential cause of the decline of the herd, and this after years of insufficiently informed discussion, lacking the commission's exact and decisive facts and figures, had failed to establish the supreme factor involved. This commission further outlined plans for future studies and observations—plans which its high authority and valuable services entitled to consideration. If in its short existence it accomplished results of paramount importance, it is reasonable to believe that a permanently established supervision and study of the seals along biological lines will prove a wise economy on the part of the Government.

But it is not an economic policy which should alone control the Government in its administration of its fur-seal interests. Were all questions of purely economic management considered settled and immutable and the seals treated by rigid and predetermined rules, there would still remain a field for observation in natural history, and one which can only be utilized by or under the auspices of the Government. The fur seal is a remarkable animal, of surpassing interest, and there are but few places where it may be observed at close quarters. It has well repaid the attention given it in the past and it will continue to repay its future study, from whatever standpoint one chooses to estimate results.

Recommendation.—In accordance with the preceding considerations it is recommended that the departmental staff for the seal islands be provided with two naturalists of adjudged competency, a chief naturalist and an assistant, these to be attached to the Division of Scientific Inquiry of the Bureau of Fisheries, to which shall be turned over all matters directly related to the seal herd, as the fixing of the quota, the reservation of bachelors for breeding purposes, the census of the herd, the selection and supervision of drives, limitation of age or size of animals killed or of size or weights of skins to be taken, all branding of seals, regulation of the rookeries, and general supervision and control of the seal herd.

The agents to have charge, as at present, of the seal islands in general, of all relations between the Government, natives and lessees, to conduct all business negotiations, to take charge of the drives on the killing grounds, and see that the killing regulations are observed.

M. C. Marsh.

November 1, 1906.

Census of fur seals.

COUNT OF HAREMS, IDLE BULLS, AND "QUITTERS," ETC., ON ST. PAUL ISLAND.

Rookery.	Date.	Harems.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Water bulls.	Cows.
Vostochni	July 16	220	8	7	11	.....
Morjovi	...do.....	76	1	3	3	.....
Reef	July 13	201	5	13	6	.....
Gorbatch	...do.....	109	2	1	6	.....
Gorbatch Cliffs	...do.....	7	1	.....	.....	145
Ardiguen	...do.....	14	.....	.....	1	332
Lagoon	July 14	21	1	1	.....	440
Tolstoi (flats)	...do.....	112	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tolstoi Cliffs	...do.....	32	2	1	1	788
Kitovi	...do.....	40	3	3	.....	950
Amphitheater	...do.....	7	.....	1	.....	176
Lukanin	...do.....	36	2	2	.....	855
Zapadni	...do.....	162	7	3	7	.....
Little Zapadni	...do.....	78	3	.....	4	.....
Zapadni Reef	...do.....	14	.....	.....	.....	254
Polovina	July 13	38	2	2	.....	.....
Polovina Cliffs	...do.....	26	1	3	.....	655
Little Polovina	...do.....	12	.....	1	.....	441
Total	.....	1,205	38	41	39	5,036
Sea Lion Rock	June 21	15	39	.....	.....	.....

COUNT OF HAREMS, IDLE BULLS, AND "QUITTERS," ETC., ON ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

North	July 15	80	4	.....	.....	[1] 2,359
Staraya Artiel	...do.....	27	.....	2	.....	.....
Zapadni	July 16	34	3	.....	.....	.....
Little East	July 15	8	.....	.....	.....	136
East Reef	...do.....	16	.....	.....	.....	545
East Cliffs	...do.....	33	2	.....	.....	.....
Total	.....	198	9	2	.....	3,040

[1] July 17.

COUNT OF PUPS, ST. GEORGE ISLAND. (H. D. CHICHESTER AND E. W. CLARK.)

Date.	Rookery.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Average harem.
July 29	North	3,749	105	.....
Aug. 1	Zapadni	2,281	29	.....
July 29	Staraya Artiel	1,958	48	.....
31	Little East	238	1	.....
31	East Reef	967	12	.....
31	East Cliffs	2,040	29	.....
	Total	11,233	224	57.86

ESTIMATE OF BREEDING SEALS AND YOUNG.

[Based on the actual average harem for St. George and the average harem for St. Paul, estimated by the same reduction as in 1905.]

Island.	Average harem by counts.	Average harem.[1]	Cows.	Pups.	Harem bulls.
St. George	57.86	.....	11,456	11,456	198
St. Paul	.....	50.17	60,455	60,455	1,205
Total	.....	.....	71,911	71,911	1,403

[1] 13.3 per cent reduction of St. George average harem, 1906.

SUMMARY OF BREEDING SEALS AND YOUNG.

Cows and pups	143,822
Harem bulls	1,403
Breeding seals and young	145,225

Census of fur seals—Continued.

PERCENTAGE OF FALLING OFF SINCE 1905.

Island.	Harem bulls.	Cows.	Idle bulls.	Breeding seals and young.
St. Paul	17.2	4.6	50	.....
St. George	23.3	11.6	59	.....
Both islands	18.1	5.8	52	5.9

STATISTICS OF KILLINGS, ST. PAUL ISLAND, 1906.

Date.	Rookery.	Killed.	Dismissed.		1906 new brands.		1904 brands.		Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Large.	Small.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.		
Skins on hand Aug. 16, 1905		281	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1905.										
Oct. 20	Reef	152	26	103	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
23	do	155	35	117	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov. 2	Reef and Tolstoi	175	98	150	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7	Northeast Point	378	35	155	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
14	do	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16	Reef	115	22	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
29	do	195	12	214	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1906.										
May 13	Sea Lion Rock	28	36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
25	do	154	208	67	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
31	Northeast Point	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
June 4	Zapadni	54	145	43	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
23	do	183	61	37	1	26	2	4	314	58
25	Northeast Point	468	176	86	1	4	16	15	766	61
27	Reef	457	179	72	185	85	3	3	984	46
28	Zapadni	488	136	122	110	58	.....	4	918	53
29	Polovina	167	51	9	11	9	2	.....	249	67
30	Northeast Point	566	163	97	20	15	14	8	883	63
July 2	Tolstoi	114	42	34	4	1	1	.....	196	58
2	Reef	471	70	107	42	33	.....	3	726	64
3	Zapadni	14	4	5	3	1	.....	.....	27	51
5	Polovina	36	30	1	2	1	.....	2	75	48
6	Northeast Point	847	77	256	32	15	2	1	1,230	68
7	Reef and Gorbatch	412	31	135	39	22	3	2	644	63
9	Zapadni	719	50	184	52	30	1	2	1,038	69
11	Northeast Point	670	34	243	32	14	.....	5	995	67
13	Reef and Gorbatch	836	37	212	85	59	4	2	1,235	67
14	Zapadni	464	31	150	54	28	1	.....	728	63
15	Polovina	27	5	5	3	2	.....	.....	42	64
16	Northeast Point	248	8	110	4	12	.....	.....	382	65
17	Tolstoi	113	32	19	7	11	1	3	186	60
19	Reef	392	38	163	50	36	.....	.....	679	57
20	Zapadni	302	36	67	25	22	1	.....	453	66
22	Northeast Point	395	18	203	11	20	5	4	656	60
22	Northeast Point (Japanese raid)	[1]63	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
24	Reef and Gorbatch	483	52	456	51	44	9	6	1,101	43
25	Zapadni	296	61	248	46	29	3	.....	683	43
27	Northeast Point	565	111	347	42	20	6	4	1,095	51
28	Reef and Gorbatch	425	37	278	42	45	2	.....	829	51
28	Tolstoi	122	17	46	17	12	.....	.....	214	57
30	Zapadni	316	42	189	34	22	.....	1	604	52
31	Northeast Point	246	52	89	5	9	.....	2	403	61
31	Polovina	37	19	10	2	8	.....	.....	76	48
	Total	12,643	2,317	4,855	1,032	693	76	70	18,411	1,744

[1] 61 cows, 2 bachelors.

Census of fur seals—Continued.

AGE OF LARGE DISMISSALS ON ST. PAUL ISLAND, 1906.

Date.	Rookery.	4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	7 years.	8 years and over.
1906.						
June 23	Zapadni	20	17	21	3	
25	Northeast Point	87	43	32	14	
27	Reef	115	41	22		1
28	Zapadni	98	24	10	4	
29	Polovina	27	17	7		
30	Northeast Point	100	30	22	11	
July 2	Tolstoi	21	8	3	10	
2	Reef	42	20	3	5	
3	Zapadni			1	3	
5	Polovina	12	11	6	1	
6	Northeast Point	52	8	12	5	
7	Reef and Gorbatch	23	4	4		
9	Zapadni	36	6	7	1	
11	Northeast Point	24	7	3		
13	Reef and Gorbatch	28	1	5	2	1
14	Zapadni	26	4	1		
15	Polovina	3	1	1		
16	Northeast Point	6	1	1		
17	Tolstoi	20	6	6		
19	Reef	24	8	6		7
20	Zapadni	23	11	2		
22	Northeast Point	16	2			
25	Zapadni	37	20	4		
27	Northeast Point	46	20	22	12	11
28	Reef and Gorbatch	18	13	4		2
28	Tolstoi	8	5	1		3
30	Zapadni	25	13	4		
31	Northeast Point	27	14	3		8
31	Polovina	6	13			
	Total	970	368	213	71	33

SEALS DISMISSED FROM DRIVES, ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

[Exhibit C, of W. I. Lembkey.]

Date.	Rookery.	Small.	Bulls.	Brands.			Age of large dismissals.			
				1906	Iron.		4	5	6	7
					Back.	Head.				
1905.										
Oct. 19	East	419	9	20			46	16	4	
27	Staraya Artiel and North	157		3			7	2		
		576	9	23			53	18	4	
1906.										
June 11	North						9	3		
14	Zapadni					2	4	3		
16	North			3		3	24	3	2	
21	Staraya Artiel and North			24	1	3	20	26	22	2
22	Zapadni	3		18		1	11	10	4	
25	Staraya Artiel and East	14		56	2		12	4	8	3
27	Zapadni		2	46			15	9	15	3
30	Staraya Artiel and East	25	2	143			25	11	5	2
July 5	Zapadni	17		29			3	2	4	
6	Staraya Artiel, East, and North	42		42			10		2	1
10	do	85		59	2		14	3	2	2
12	Zapadni	17		27			5		1	
16	Staraya Artiel and East	69		32			5	1	1	
19	Zapadni	33		43			5	3	1	
21	Straraya Artiel and East	163		52	2		4	5		
25	Staraya Artiel and North	250		44			1	6	1	
27	North and Zapadni	29		3	1		3			
	Total	747	4	621	8	9	170	89	68	13

Census of fur seals—Continued.

STATISTICS OF KILLINGS, ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

[Exhibit D, of W. I. Lembkey.]

Date.	Rookery.	Killed.	Dismissed.		1906 new brands.	Iron brands.		Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Large.	Small.		Back.	Head.		
1906.									
June 11	North	22	12					34	64
16	Staraya Artiel and North	45	29		3		3	80	56
25	Staraya Artiel, North, and East	31	27	14	56	2		130	23
27	Zapadni	78	44		46			168	46
30	Staraya Artiel, East, and North	219	45	25	143			432	50
July 5	Zapadni	71	9	17	29			126	56
6	Starya Artiel, East, and North	247	13	42	42			344	71
10	do	257	23	85	59			424	60
12	Zapadni	49	6	17	27			99	49
16	Staraya Artiel and East	192	7	69	32			300	64
19	Zapadni	73	9	33	43			158	46
21	Staraya Artiel and East	211	9	163	52	2		437	48
25	Staraya Artiel, East. and North	157	8	250	44			459	34
28	North and Zapadni	33	3	29	3	1		69	47
	Total	1,685	244	744	579	5	3	3,260	51

Intermediate counts.

KITOVI.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.	Name.
June 9	24	9			
12	24	9			
15	22	12			
17	26	8			
19	29	3	1	1	
21	29	7	8	8	
23	27	9	12	16	
25	33	3	21	37	
27	36	1	28	85	
30	37	1	30	180	James Judge.
July 2	35	7	31	281	W. I. Lembkey.
4	37	4	27	434	James Judge.
6	39	6	34	651	
8	41	5	35	846	
11	45	4	40	1,028	
13	43	3	40	950	W. I. Lembkey.

AMPHITHEATER.

June 9	6				
12	6	1			
15	4	3			
17	5	3			
19	5	2			
21	6	2	1	1	
23	6	3	2	2	
25	7	1	5	6	
27	8		7	16	
30	8		7	37	James Judge.
July 2	8	1	7	58	W. I. Lembkey.
4	8		8	104	James Judge.
6	9	1	9	145	
8	9		9	173	
11	9	1	9	201	
13	8	1	7	176	W. I. Lembkey.

Intermediate counts—Continued.

LUKANIN.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows.	Name.
June 9	33	2	.....	.....	
12	35	1	1	1	
15	33	2	1	1	
17	35	2	3	3	
19	37	2	5	6	
21	37	2	9	13	
23	34	5	14	31	
25	36	3	13	58	
27	36	3	18	111	
30	35	4	21	226	James Judge.
uly 2	36	2	26	273	W. I. Lembkey.
4	37	2	31	487	James Judge.
6	36	2	32	627	
8	36	2	32	849	
11	38	0	35	921	
13	38	2	36	855	W. I. Lembkey.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 24, 1906.

MEMORANDUM TO DR. EVERMANN.

It is desired to explain the absence from my report, presently to be submitted, of a visit to the seal islands the past summer, of certain data called for by instructions. These are the count of live pups on St. Paul Island and of nearly all information concerning mortality and disease of pups after the height of the season. I returned from St. George Island to St. Paul Island by the cutter *McCulloch* July 26 and met Mr. Sims, the solicitor of the department. It was expected to begin the pup counts in a very few days and to immediately look for uncinariated pups. In conversation with Mr. Sims he remarked that the agents intended to count pups on all the rookeries, but that he thought it unwise to disturb so many and that they should be counted on only a few rookeries. He was probably mistaken as to the intention of the agents, as they never count pups on all St. Paul rookeries. At any rate this was satisfactory to me, as my instructions asked for counts only on a few rookeries. Mr. Sims left the island the evening of the 26th on the *McCulloch*, the vessel going to Northeast Point. He did not return to the village. The next day Mr. Judge, assistant agent, who had been left in charge, announced that instructions had come over the telephone from Northeast Point to count no pups save in so far as it could be done from the rear of the rookeries. He later obtained the instructions in writing from Mr. Sims. I have no copy of this order, though I saw it, but it was in substance as above, directing that no one should go upon the rookeries "unless it can be done without driving the cows into the water," as near as I remember the phraseology, and ending "on no account do I think any cows should be driven off." At this season the cows flee at the first sight of a moving person. After considerable discussion with Mr. Judge, he construed this as forbidding entering the rookeries for either counting live or dead pups or securing dead pups. I did not think a count from the rear

of the rookeries was worth making and, in fact, even this could not have been made without driving off many cows. Neither Mr. Judge nor myself made any counts of pups.

What of value could have been learned concerning the mortality of pups is of course unknown. The count, however, would have given the usual basis for the census of seals. As it is, the census is based on the count of pups on St. George alone, which has probably between one-sixth and one-fifth of the herd. Applying the St. George average harem to St. Paul would show nearly a 6 per cent increase in cows and pups over 1905, and about a 3 per cent increase for the whole herd. No such increase is credible. Since for at least the past two years the average harem for St. Paul has been lower than for St. George, perhaps the most accurate estimate of pups on St. Paul for 1906 will be obtained by reducing the St. George average harem for 1906 in the same proportion as the St. Paul average harem for 1905 was less than that of St. George for 1905. It was 13.3 per cent less. This has been done and to this extent the whole census of cows and pups for 1906 is an estimate.

It is largely in this matter of pup counts, of not counting them by entering the rookery itself according to the methods of the fur-seal commission of 1896–97, now agreed on all sides to be the only possible way of obtaining the number of pups born, that the statistics of the departmental agents for the early years following the commission are confusing and misleading when it is attempted to compare the annual results.

M. C. MARSH,
Assistant.

COMMENTS ON THE REPORT OF MR. M. C. MARSH, OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES, ON HIS VISIT TO THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS IN THE SUMMER OF 1906.

While the instructions in pursuance of which Mr. Marsh visited the Pribilof Islands last summer are not submitted with his report, it must be remembered that Dr. Jordan, of Stanford University, during the past winter urged with great force the transfer of the seal-island service to the Fish Commission, and the substitution for two of the agents of two biologists, who were to have exclusive charge of the management of the seal herd. In supporting his recommendations, Dr. Jordan took occasion to attack the veracity and correctness of the reports and statistics relating to seal life submitted by the agents on the seal islands during the past few years, as otherwise no reason for the change would be apparent, and to assert that an observer of recognized biological ability would find an entirely different condition of affairs to exist. Because of Dr. Jordan's recommendations, and his assertions that the Government's interests on the seal islands were being unskillfully conducted by the present corps of officers, the department detailed Mr. M. C. Marsh to visit the seal islands, to investigate and report upon the conditions present there.

In his communications to the President and the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Dr. Jordan alleged: (1) That the counts showing a scarcity of adult male life on the rookeries were inaccurate and erroneous, in that the agents overlooked a number of bulls that were

actually present on distant rookeries and unfrequented hauling grounds, or, in other words, that the condition of a scarcity of male life, as reported by the agents, could not possibly exist; (2) that the agents had ignored the presence of *uncinaria* as a cause of death among seal pups, and that probably thousands of deaths had resulted from this cause which were entirely overlooked by the agents in their reports; (3) that the rookeries had been charted and numbered during the investigation by the Jordan commission, and that these numbers had been allowed to become obliterated through negligence; (4) that the deductions and conclusions of the agents respecting seal life were, in general, incorrect, improbable, and not founded in fact.

Mr. Marsh, in his visit to the islands, enjoyed every possible facility for carrying on his work. He was invited by the agents to accompany them on all of their visits to the rookeries, and, as a fact, did not visit the rookeries a half-dozen times except in the company of an agent, while the latter was performing his usual work of counting seals, and what not. In addition to this he was asked to be present at, and allowed to participate in, the work of branding the bachelors, enumerating the rejected seals, weighing the skins, and, in fact, in all of the work that falls to the agents during the sealing season.

While Mr. Marsh during his stay on the islands made his headquarters at the company house, and did not avail himself of the room placed at his disposal at the Government house, yet he visited the latter frequently for the purpose of obtaining the counts of seals and other statistics gathered by the agents from time to time during the summer, and which he has included in his report as connected counts of the various classes of seals enumerated.

Upon his arrival at San Francisco from the seal islands, before returning to the department, Mr. Marsh visited Dr. Jordan at Stanford University and had an extended conference with that gentleman. It is fair to believe, therefore, that Mr. Marsh's report has the indorsement of Dr. Jordan, and can be accepted as voicing his sentiments.

With these preliminary statements, attention is called to the contents of the report itself. From its examination it will be seen that it contains merely the same class of statistics complied for years by the agents, and which, in fact, were gathered by them this year during the presence of Mr. Marsh. Without any reflection upon that gentleman, it can be said that, if he had not been present on the islands last summer, the same statistics would have been collated and submitted to the department by the agents as Mr. Marsh has embodied in his report.

The report could easily be dismissed with the statement that it contains nothing on the seal question that has not already been ascertained, were it not for the fact that in it Mr. Marsh verifies and confirms all the statements of the agents which were so uniformly condemned by Dr. Jordan as being inaccurate and unreliable. Mr. Marsh finds:

1. That the class of idle bulls has been practically eliminated, as reported by the agents.
2. That the methods of the agents in enumerating seal life leave no improvement to be suggested.
3. That there are no "distant rookeries" or hauling grounds which the agents fail to include in their statistics.
4. That the percentage of decrease in breeding bulls is more rapid than among breeding females, as already reported by the agents and questioned by Dr. Jordan.

5. That, as reported by the agents, the decrease in cows on the two islands is of differing ratios.

6. That it is likely that a smaller harem (hence more bulls, as recommended by the agents) would make the best condition for the increase of the herd.

7. That the method of marking seals for breeding (as established by the agents) is efficient for checking the decrease in male life.

8. That *uncinaria*, which was found by Mr. F. A. Lucas on St. Paul in 1897, and adopted by Dr. Jordan as a potent and important agent in the destruction of infant seal life, notwithstanding the fact that only 122 instances of death from *uncinaria* were discovered by his commission in 1897, and which Dr. Jordan now suggests as a destroying force not taken into account by the agents, has as at present no known existence on the islands.

In point of fact, not one of the criticisms against the conduct of the service made by Dr. Jordan was founded in fact, as determined by the investigation of Mr. Marsh.

In his investigation of fox life on the islands Mr. Marsh dismisses the subject without further consideration, after recommending favorably to the department a report on foxes, made in 1903 by Assistant Agent James Judge, which, as Mr. Marsh justly states, is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the Pribilof fox herd, from both the natural history and economic standpoints.

After vindicating in detail the methods of the agents in their treatment of seal life, and not only adopting these methods in his own work, but using their statistics as the basis of his own report, one would fairly think that an honest treatment of the subject would suggest no change in the present methods or personnel. It is, therefore, a matter of surprise that Mr. Marsh should conclude his report with the recommendations previously urged by Dr. Jordan that two of the agents be replaced by two biologists, who should have charge of the herd. In this matter Mr. Marsh is clearly illogical, in that he approves methods, but thinks they should be abandoned; he approves the agents, but thinks they should be supplanted; he finds in favor of the present system, but pronounces judgment against it. For an investigator to indorse the work of the officer investigated, adopt that work as his own, and then recommend that the officer be displaced without alleging proper grounds therefor, is unreasonable, and suggests the almost inevitable conclusion that the principal object of Mr. Marsh's visit was the reiteration of Dr. Jordan's recommendations rather than an impartial ascertainment of facts and conditions.

There are numerous inconsistencies in the report of Mr. Marsh which might be pointed out. For instance, Mr. Marsh states that "the seal feeds largely on salmon," when it is known that salmon forms an inconsiderable portion of its diet. Since the discovery of the Russian seal islands a good-sized salmon fishery has been maintained side by side with the largest rookery there, which the seals have never been known either to deplete or disturb. He predicts that the diseases affecting seal life will increase in greater ratio than the seals themselves, when it is known positively that seal rookeries, when left absolutely undisturbed by man, will replete themselves to the point of natural equilibrium in a few years, their "diseases" notwithstanding. He alleges that the investigation by Dr. Jordan's commission established the "general principles which must govern the management of the seal herd to maintain it at its highest productiveness," when it is a fact that not one of the plans recommended

by the commission for the conservation of seal life on land has been found in application to have any value. He states that the seal question is a "biological" one, when, in point of fact, it is wholly a diplomatic question and is so admitted by all.

It is regretted that Mr. Marsh, in dealing with the question of the diminution of seal life, fails to mention the one admitted and primary cause of the herd's decline, namely, pelagic sealing. A failure to consider the situation from this standpoint is an omission which must cast doubt upon the accuracy of any conclusion arrived at by a student of the question. Mr. Marsh very properly has concluded that there is nothing in the methods of treatment which the seals receive on land tending toward their decrease. Having arrived at this conclusion, he could state, with perfect justice to himself and to the facts, that the sole cause of their diminution is the killing of female seals at sea by pelagic sealers, and that nothing short of the abolition of this practice through international agreement will save them from extermination.

Part IV. Visit and Report of Edwin W. Sims.

[Copy.]

June 21, 1906.

Edwin W. Sims, Esq.,
Solicitor, Department of Commerce and Labor.

Sir: You are hereby detailed and instructed to make a thorough investigation of the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska. To accomplish the purpose of such investigation, you are directed to examine into the condition of the seal herd on the Pribilof Islands and in adjoining waters; to secure information concerning pelagic sealing; to ascertain whether or not the terms of the contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co., by virtue of which that company is granted exclusive right of taking fur seals on the Pribilof Islands, are being strictly complied with, particularly in so far as it relates to the natives; to examine into the condition of the schools, churches, and dwellings of the natives; to ascertain whether or not the law and the regulations governing the taking of fur seals are being complied with in all particulars; and in fact to make a thorough investigation of all the conditions surrounding the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska.

To secure a basis for intelligent and official action on the part of the Government, it is important that the department should at an early date be put in possession of complete and comprehensive information concerning all matters relating to the seal herd and the conditions on the Pribilof Islands. I believe the decrease which reports indicate is taking place in the seal life on the islands to be directly attributable to pelagic sealing, and have already recommended that strong afforts be made to secure international regulations which will but a stop to it. In addition to this, the contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co. is about to expire, and the department should be in possession of such information as to conditions in general as will enable it to recommend intelligent action at this time.

Your expenses of subsistence and travel will be paid from the appropriation "Contingent expenses, Department of Commerce and Labor,

fiscal year 1906 and 1907," and you are authorized to further incur all reasonable and proper expense for other objects necessary and proper for the complete performance of such duties.

Respectfully,

V. M. METCALF,
Secretary.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Enderlin, N. Dak., July 4, 1906.

Hon. VICTOR H. METCALF,
Secretary Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.:

Sims and I leave Seattle Saturday. Further instructions may be wired Renier Grand Hotel.

GEORGE L. BOWERS.

JULY 5, 1906.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 5, 1906.

EDWIN W. SIMS OR GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Renier Grand Hotel, Seattle, Wash.:

No further instructions. Impossible for me to go with you.

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Sitka, Alaska, August 9, 1906.

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

Leaving here commercial steamer to-day. Can be reached Rainier Grand, Seattle, August 12. Have return ticket via San Francisco and will see Secretary if there.

SIMS.

AUGUST 10, 1906.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Seattle, Wash., August 15, 1906.

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

Please advise me at Chicago whether to send written report of seal raids from there or come to Washington now to report verbally as well. Should reach Chicago August 22.

SIMS.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, October 5, 1906.

EDWIN W. SIMS,
United States District Attorney, Chicago, Ill.:

Must have your report on fur-seal islands not later than October 8. Report should cover revenue-cutter patrol.

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS,
Chicago, October 7, 1906.

Hon. VICTOR H. METCALF,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am inclosing my report on the conditions of the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries. While the document now submitted is a full report and is complete in itself, you will receive in the course of a day or two appendixes which contain tables and statistical information which I believe will be useful to you in the future. The appendixes have been completed by me and I am sending them on by this mail to the solicitor's office to be typewritten. As soon as they have been typewritten, they will be delivered to you. As I have before stated, however, the report which accompanies this letter is complete in itself and can be taken by you as final.

I have endeavored to include in the report enough information as to the Pribilof Islands, the fur-seal herd, existing laws and treaties and the history thereof, to give you in a few minutes a good working knowledge of the whole subject. When I first took up the matter of the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries I found that in order to get a comprehensive idea of the subject I had to read what would be equivalent to the contents of about 30 volumes of the Supreme Court reports. It has been my aim to state in that part of this report which deals with the conditions in general the substance of all essential information with reference to the fisheries.

In case the revenue-cutter patrol pleads lack of time as an excuse for not properly guarding the fur-seal fisheries, I suggest that you call for a report as to the number of days the vessels were actually engaged on the patrol as distinguished from the number of days spent in port. It also seems to me that information as to the number of days the vessels are actually being navigated as against the days they spend in port each year would be important as indicating whether or not they have been pressed for time.

I have dated this report August 31 and signed it as solicitor, that being the official capacity in which I made the investigation.

Very respectfully,

EDWIN W. SIMS.

P. S.—For statements as to revenue-cutter patrol, see pages 5 and 41.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR ON THE ALASKAN FUR-SEAL FISHERIES, AUGUST 31, 1906.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, August 31, 1906.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a report on the condition of the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries.

Very respectfully,

EDWIN W. SIMS,
Solicitor of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

Hon. VICTOR H. METCALF,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you that in accordance with the terms of your letter of June 21, 1906, directing me to investigate the conditions of the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries, I visited St. Paul, St. George, and Otter Islands of the Pribilof group in Bering Sea, Unalaska, Kodiak, Sitka, and other places in Alaska, during the months of July and August, and collected information bearing upon the subject to be investigated. I spent an entire week on the island of St. Paul, during which time I personally visited all of the seal rookeries and witnessed several drives.

As the result of my observation and investigation I have the honor to submit the following report:

Destruction of the seal herd by pelagic sealers.—The Pribilof fur-seal herd is being rapidly wiped out of existence as the result of pelagic sealing—the killing of seals in the water. The destructive effect of this method of taking seals has not been fully realized, and unless prompt measures are taken to stop it the entire herd will soon be annihilated.

Estimates as to the number of seals in the Pribilof herd at the time this Government purchased Alaska vary from two to seven millions. The best estimate, in my judgment, is that it consisted of about 4,000,000 seals. To-day the herd numbers less than 180,000 seals. In other words, there are fewer seals in the Pribilof herd to-day than there were in 1835, when the Russian Government felt impelled to adopt drastic measures to prevent its destruction.

During the first 20 years of American ownership it was at all times possible to secure 100,000 skins annually on the Pribilof Islands. From 1890 down to the present time the number of skins which could be obtained has steadily decreased. This season the lessee of the sealing privilege was unable to secure even the 15,000 skins which it was authorized to take.

Herd is in a most critical condition.—While it is true that the size of the herd has been steadily decreasing for a number of years, I believe that its existence is more seriously threatened at this time than ever before in its history. The herd is in a most critical condition.

The high price paid for sealskins in the London market last year has not only led to renewed activity on the part of the Canadian seal-

ing fleet, but is unquestionably responsible for the appearance in Bering Sea this year of the largest fleet of Japanese vessels which has ever directed its operations against the Pribilof herd. Authentic reports are to the effect that the Canadian fleet engaged in pelagic sealing the past season numbered upward of 30 vessels. Reports vary as to the size of the Japanese fleet, some placing it at 13 and others at 30 vessels. Fleets of this size can not long prey on the already diminished herd without soon annihilating it.

Importance of the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries.—Since the purchase of Alaska in 1867, the United States has received a revenue from the lease of the sealing privilege on the Pribilof Islands of nearly $9,000,000—almost $2,000,000 more than it paid for all Alaska. In addition to this the Government annually collects a large sum in customs revenue on manufactured sealskins which are reimported from London, where they are sent in their raw state for treatment. The trade in skins taken on these islands by citizens of the United States since the purchase of Alaska, aggregates more than $50,000,000.

Treaties and laws violated by pelagic sealers.—From information furnished me during the course of my investigation, I believe that a part, at least five or six, of the vessels of the Canadian fleet this year continued their pelagic sealing operations in the vicinity of Sitka, and at other points in Alaska, during the months of May and June, in violation of article 2 of the Articles of Award of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration, establishing a yearly closed season from May 1 to July 31.

On the other hand, the vessels of the Japanese fleet not only took thousands of seals within the territorial waters of the United States surrounding the Pribilof Islands during the past summer, but during a period of two days—July 16 and 17—the crews of four of the schooners committed a series of unlawful acts which terrorized the native inhabitants and injuriously disturbed the seal life on the rookeries of St. Paul Island. Raiding parties from three of these schooners actually landed on the island. One of the parties which landed killed 185 seals and got away with 120 skins before it was discovered.

As a result of the raids 5 of the poachers were killed while attempting to escape arrest, and 12, including 2 wounded, were captured. Three small boats and some arms and paraphernalia for killing seals on land were also captured. The force protecting the islands suffered no casualties, although it was subject to a rifle fire from the decks of a schooner anchored close inshore, while making arrests on the second day.

Existing revenue cutter patrol ineffective.—The patrol for the enforcement of the laws for the protection of the seal fisheries, nominally maintained by the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service, is wholly insufficient to meet the actual needs of the situation. Without doubt it was the known ineffectiveness of this patrol that led some of the Canadian schooners to take chances and engage in pelagic sealing during the closed season. I was reliably informed by a man who had this year talked with a number of the captains of the Canadian sealing fleet that they have little or no fear of the patrol maintained by this Government. It is also apparent that the presence of a revenue cutter in the vicinity of the islands would have prevented the depredations of the Japanese schooners at that point.

While nothing short of an absolute cessation of pelagic sealing will

prevent the utimate destruction of the seal herd, it is obvious that the strict enforcement of the laws and treaties by an active patrol will do much to preserve its existence.

Before going into the details of the operations of the Japanese sealing fleet during the past season, I shall at this point refer briefly to some general facts in connection with the Pribilof Islands and the seal herd in order that you may more fully appreciate existing conditions.

The Pribilof Islands.—The Pribilof Islands, which are the home of the fur-seal herd which takes their name, were discovered in 1786 by Gerassim Pribilof, a navigator in the employ of one of the Russian trading companies. They are situated in Bering Sea about 2,000 miles from Seattle by the most direct route. The group consists of St. Paul, St. George, Walrus, and Otter Islands, and Sea Lion Rock. They are completely isolated from other land, the nearest port being Unalaska, which is 214 miles to the southward. The islands are of volcanic origin and are desert islands to the extent that they produce nothing capable of sustaining man. The island of St. Paul, which is the largest of the group, is $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and $7\frac{2}{3}$ miles wide, and has a shore line of $45\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It has a population of 168. St. George Island, which lies at a distance of about 40 miles southeast of St. Paul, is 12 miles long and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide, with a shore line of 30 miles. It has a population of 91. Otter Island, Walrus Island, and Sea Lion Rock are much smaller and are uninhabited. During a large part of the year the islands and the surrounding sea are enveloped in a dense fog. There are no vessels on the islands capable of being navigated to the mainland or the nearest port, and the only time the residents come in touch with the outside world is when the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer calls there twice each year, and at irregular intervals when a revenue cutter chances to stop for a few hours.

The Pribilof fur-seal herd.—The islands which I have just described are the natural retreat and the only breeding ground of the Pribilof or American fur-seal herd, which even in its depleted condition is the largest fur-seal herd in the world.

The seals of this herd breed upon the islands of St. Paul and St. George during the summer and annually, in the fall, leave them and proceed through Bering Sea and the passes between the Aleutian Islands into the Pacific Ocean. Some of them go as far south as the Santa Barbara Channel off southern California. Generally speaking, this annual migration of the fur-seal herd may be said to commence in November, and by the latter part of December there are few, if any, animals left on the islands. They remain away until the following spring, the first arrivals usually appearing about the 1st of May and the last the latter part of June or 1st of July. In the interval between their arrival in the spring and their departure in the fall, the offices of reproduction are accomplished.

Within a few hours after she arrives on the island the cow gives birth to her pup; five or six days later she comes in heat and is served by the bull. As the females do not leave the island from the time they first land until after impregnation, it follows that all adult cows whenever found at sea are pregnant. During the period of about six months which the seals annually spend on the islands the females make frequent and regular trips to the feeding grounds, about 150

miles to the southward in Bering Sea. After feeding they go to sleep on the surface of the water while the food they have taken digests. When rested they return to the islands where they nurse the pup. The female seal gives birth to one pup each year for probably 10 years, commencing the third year of her existence.

Variations in the size of the herd.—At the time of the discovery of the islands by the Russians, fur seal, sea otter, walrus, sea lions, and foxes were found on them in almost unlimited numbers. The killing of all these species of animals proceeded with wanton prodigality from the year 1786 until the year 1835, when the fur-seal herd was reduced to less than 200,000. This shrinkage was caused by the indiscriminate killing of both male and female. A closed season was established on the islands from 1835 to 1845–1850, during which period only such seals were killed as were necessary to furnish food and clothing for the natives. The killing of females on land was also discontinued after 1835 and was never again resumed.

This resulted in a gradual rehabilitation of the herd, allowing an increasing number of young male seals to be taken each year from 1850 until 1870, the date of the commencement of the first lease of the sealing rights to the Alaska Commercial Co. From that year and during the 20 years of this first lease, 100,000 young male seals were killed annually for commercial purposes and the skins marketed, with the exception of the years 1877 and 1883, when, owing to a glut in the market for skins, only 75,000 seals were killed. This reduction, however, was voluntary on the part of the lessee, and was not the result of a lack of seals.

Methods of securing sealskins.—The skins of seals for commercial purposes are secured in two ways: (1) By killing the seal on land; (2) by killing the seal in the water, i. e., pelagic sealing.

1. The killing of seals on land is confined to the Pribilof Islands, is engaged in only by those who lease that right from the Government, and is limited to those surplus immature bachelors which may be taken without affecting the herd. The prohibition against the killing of females, established by the Russians in 1835, has been embodied in our laws and is always strictly observed. The character and number of the seals to be taken is determined by law and by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and the operations of the lessee on the islands are subject to the direct surveillance of Government agents appointed for that purpose. The history of the herd conclusively demonstrates that a rational and carefully regulated land killing is beneficial rather than detrimental to the herd.

2. The killing of seals in the water—pelagic sealing—is engaged in by vessels owned and manned by the citizens of other nations and by Indians dwelling on certain of the coasts of the United States and Canada.[1] It is a wantonly destructive method of securing furs. The Indians are allowed to take seals in canoes or undecked boats propelled wholly by paddles, oars, or sails and not transported by or used in connection with other vessels or manned by more than five persons. The vessels of other nations which engage in pelagic sealing are schooners ranging in size from 25 to 125 tons burden. Each vessel carries a crew of from 10 to 50 men, usually about 30, and carries from 5 to 20 boats or canoes. The schooner cruises about until she comes into sealing territory, when the small boats, which

[1] See act of Apr. 6, 1894, 28 Stat., 52, art. 8.

are usually manned by three men, are lowered. These boats scatter out in search of seals. Seals in motion are shot; seals asleep or resting on the water are usually speared. In the spring the pelagic sealers pick up the herd off northern California and follow it northward. In the summer they cruise around the feeding grounds in Bering Sea. The catch at this point is chiefly females which have come to feed, and which, if unmolested, would return to the Pribilof Islands to nourish their young. One of the Japanese sealers of a party which landed on St. Paul Island during the summer stated under oath that 7 or 8 out of every 10 seals taken in Bering Sea by the schooner on which he belonged were females.

Pelagic sealing was nominal from the year 1868 to 1880. From 1881, however, when 10,000 skins were taken by pelagic sealers from the Pribilof herd, this catch increased annually until 1894, when 61,838 skins were taken. The pelagic catch for 1905 was 25,320. The decrease in the pelagic catch from 1894 down to the present time is due to a steady decrease in the size of the herd. The increase of the pelagic sealing has had direct relation to the diminution of the number of seals on the rookeries, and the present low condition of the herd is, in my judgment, due solely to the killing of female seals at sea. The rational land killing of surplus, immature bachelors, which has been carried on under lease from this Government, has had nothing to do with the decrease in the size of the herd.

The killing of females a wanton destruction of seal life.—The killing of female seals at any time or any place results in wanton destruction of seal life. Those females killed while the herd is on its way northward in the spring are pregnant, and their death results in the loss of two lives to the herd. Those females killed on the feeding grounds in Bering Sea in the summer and early fall are not only pregnant, but they have a nursing pup on shore, which dies of starvation when they fail to return. Their death thus results in the loss of three lives to the herd. In addition to this, the skins secured by the pelagic sealer represent only about 50 per cent of those he has actually killed. The other half sink and are not recoverable or, when only wounded, escape and die later from their wounds. These facts, coupled with the knowledge that the pelagic sealer has since 1890 secured almost twice as many skins as have been secured on the islands, fixes beyond question the cause of the depletion of the herd.

Terms of the lease from the Government.—Since 1870 the exclusive right to engage in the business of taking fur seals on the Pribilof Islands has been exercised by American companies operating under lease from the Government. From 1870 to 1890 the right was exercised by the Alaska Commercial Co. At the present time the North American Commercial Co. is the lessee under a contract which expires in 1910. Under the terms of this contract as construed by the United States Supreme Court (U. S. *v.* North American Commercial Co., 171 U. S., 110) the company pays at the rate of $10.22\frac{1}{2}$ for each skin taken. The Secretary of Commerce and Labor determines by regulation the kind and number of seals to be taken each year and the method of killing. In addition to the sum paid the Government for each skin the company furnishes free to the natives on the islands dried salmon and salt and salt barrels for preserving a supply of meat; 80 tons of coal annually; comfortable dwellings and

necessary schoolhouses, which it keeps in repair; competent teachers and a free school for the education of the children eight months of the year; competent physicians, medicines and medical supplies, and the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands unable to provide for themselves. The company also employs the natives to perform such work on the islands as they are fitted to perform at a compensation fixed from time to time by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

The tribunal of arbitration.—As the result of certain differences which had arisen between Great Britain and the United States over the seizures of Canadian vessels and the efforts of this Government to protect the seal herd, these two nations, on February 29, 1892, concluded a treaty whereby they agreed to submit the questions in dispute to a tribunal of arbitration. This tribunal, which concluded its labors in Paris in 1893, is usually spoken of as the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration and its findings and award as the award of the Paris tribunal.

Generally speaking, the chief contentions of the United States before this tribunal were: (1) That Bering Sea was a closed sea and (2) that it had a property right in the seal herd which justified it in protecting the seals on the high seas. The treaty also provided that in case the determination of the questions submitted as to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States left the subject in such position that the concurrence of Great Britain was necessary to the establishment of regulations for the proper protection of the fur-seal herd, the arbitrators were to determine what concurrent regulations outside of the jurisdictional limit of the respective Governments were necessary, and over what waters such regulations should extend.[1]

The tribunal found that Bering Sea was not a closed sea, and also decided adversely to the United States on the question of its right to protect the seal herd outside of territorial waters. Accordingly a set of regulations were adopted, the essential features of which were the establishment of a closed zone of 60 miles in Bering Sea about the Pribilof Islands and a closed season from May 1 to August 1, within which all sealing was prohibited.

While the treaty of 1892 provides that "the high contracting parties engage to consider the result of the proceedings of the tribunal of arbitration as a full, perfect, and final settlement of all the questions referred to the arbitrators" (Article XIV), it is in this connection worthy of note that the regulations, which were part of the award, provide in terms that they "shall be submitted every five years to a new examination, so as to enable both interested Governments to consider whether, in the light of past experience, there is occasion for any modification thereof." (Article IX.)

The modus vivendi.—For the purpose of avoiding the irritating differences with a view to promoting the friendly settlement of the questions pending between the two Governments, an agreement was entered into on June 15, 1891, for a modus vivendi in relation to the fur-seal fisheries in Bering Sea. By the terms of the modus vivendi, which remained effective until the award of the Paris tribunal, the killing of all seals, with the exception of a limited number for the sustenance of the native inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands, was suspended.

[1] Article VII.

Existing laws and treaties.[1]—The substance of existing laws and treaties is as follows: The laws of the United States prohibit American citizens and subjects from killing any seals at any time in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea or on any land or in any of the waters of Alaska subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Indians dwelling on the coast of the United States may, however, kill seals in the water under certain restrictions, and those persons or corporations operating under lease from the Government may kill seals on the Pribilof Islands. These are the only exceptions to an absolute and universal prohibition running against citizens and subjects of the United States.

Now, while that feature of these laws which prohibits Americans from killing seals in the open ocean—the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea—is not effective as against the citizens and subjects of other nations, those provisions which absolutely prohibit the killing of seals on any land or in any water subject to the jurisdiction of the United States in Alaska is effective as against all the world, aliens as well as citizens. It follows, therefore, that with the exception of the Indians and those operating under lease from the Government no person may lawfully kill seals in Alaska or in Alaskan waters.

Citizens and subjects of Great Britain and of the United States, in addition to being bound, in common with other people who come within the jurisdiction of the United States, to yield obedience to its laws, are subject to the award of the Paris tribunal. The articles of this award provide for a closed zone of 60 miles around the Pribilof Islands, within which the citizens of both parties are forbidden to kill seals at any time; provide a closed season from May 1 to August 1 each year, during which the citizens of both nations are prohibited from killing seals in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean, including Bering Sea, north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and east of the one hundred and eightieth meridian of longitude, till it strikes the water boundary between the United States and Russia; forbid the use of firearms in Bering Sea and include other minor regulations. Subsequent to the award, American citizens were, by the act of December 29, 1897, denied the privilege accorded by the Paris award, and are now, as I have before indicated, absolutely forbidden to kill any seals at any time in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean or Bering Sea north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude. This prohibition does not, however, run against Indians dwelling on the coast of the North Pacific Ocean.

So far as I am aware Great Britain is the only nation with which we have any treaty regulating the killing of seals from the Pribilof herd.[2] The legal situation may therefore be summarized as follows:

American citizens, with the exceptions noted, and all others are prohibited from killing seals in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean or on any land or in any of the waters of Alaska subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

The subjects of Great Britain are prohibited from killing seals at any time within a zone of 60 miles surrounding the Pribilof Islands and during the closed season, from the 1st of May to the 1st of August, in those waters of the North Pacific Ocean above described.

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[1] See vol. 3, Comp. Stat., p. 3003.

[2] For terms of a modus vivendi with Russia respecting killing on the Asiatic side of the Pacific, sec. 28, Stat., 1202.

Citizens of all other nations may, therefore, kill seals at any time and at any place, excepting the land and water areas of Alaska subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

St. Paul and St. George a Government reservation.—The laws of the United States, for the purpose of protecting the seals on their breeding rookeries, declare the islands of St. Paul and St. George to be a special reservation for Government purposes,[1] on which no one, not even a citizen of the United States, may land or remain except by the authority of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. Any person found on either of the islands in violation of these laws is directed to be summarily removed, and it is made the duty of the Secretary of War to carry the direction into effect.

For some years after they were made a Government reservation the seal rookeries, which are located at widely separated points on the shores of St. George and St. Paul Islands, were guarded by a detachment of United States soldiers. Since the withdrawal of this military guard the rookeries have been guarded by armed natives designated for that duty by the agent in charge. This guard is maintained each year during the period when the seals are present on the rookeries and was being maintained at the time of the raids in July.

The laws also prohibit the killing of any seals within the limits of Alaska or the waters thereof, and make it a separate offense to kill any seals in the waters adjacent to St. Paul or St. George, or on the beach, cliffs, or rocks of those islands where they haul up from the sea to remain. Other provisions expressly prohibit the killing of female seals and make it an offense to kill any seals at any time by the use of firearms or by other means tending to drive them away from the islands. The penalties for violations of these laws include fines ranging from $200 to $1,000 or imprisonment, or both fine and imprisonment for each offense. Provision is also made for the forfeiture of vessels whose crews are found violating the laws.

Supervision and control of the fur-seal fisheries.—The law vests the supervision and control of the fur-seal fisheries in the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and authorizes him to make all needful regulations to carry into full effect all of its provisions. The management and supervision of the seal fisheries on the islands are exercised through agents which he is authorized to appoint, and who are charged with the performance of such duties as may be assigned to them by him.

Existing regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor advise the agents that the only persons entitled to land on the islands are Government officers, representatives and employees of the North American Commercial Co., and duly accredited representatives of the Russian Church, and authorize them to remove persons who endanger the peace and good government of the inhabitants of the islands. The regulations also authorize the employment of the natives in guarding the rookeries, and instruct the agents to take such action as sound judgment directs in case of emergency.

At the time of the raids on St. Paul during the past summer the affairs of the island were in charge of Mr. W. I. Lembkey, chief agent, and Mr. James Judge, assistant agent.

[1] R. S., 1959; also sec. 176, act of Mar. 3, 1899, 30 Stat., 1280.

OPERATIONS OF THE JAPANESE FLEET.

Seals killed close to the Pribilof Islands.—The Japanese pelagic sealing fleet which operated in Bering Sea during the summer consisted of at least 13 vessels, each of which carried a crew of about 30 men and from 5 to 7 small boats for sealing. It is evident from the number of vessels sighted from the islands that the entire fleet operated exclusively in the waters surrounding the islands and on many occasions killed seals within the 3-mile limit. The seals which breed on these islands have been undisturbed in the waters surrounding them for many years, and they undoubtedly fell an easy prey to this unexpected onslaught. In view of this fact, and in view of the further fact that large numbers of breeding females are continually passing from the islands to the feeding grounds about 150 miles southwest and from there back to the islands, the seal herd has without doubt suffered a heavier blow as the result of the operations of this fleet during the past season than has been administered to it for many years past.

Wholly aside from the fact that this fleet of vessels engaged in pelagic sealing at the very doors of a reservation which has been set aside by this Government for breeding purposes, the crews of some of the vessels engaged in a series of high-handed and outrageous depredations within the land and water territory of the United States, which included repeated violations of express provisions of its laws. They used shotguns to kill the seals in the water, and used cannon, probably for signaling. The reports of shotgun firing and the boom of cannon, which were continually heard on the shore nearly all of two days, were so close as to disturb injuriously the rookeries. They killed seals in the water close to the shore, easily within the 3-mile limit, and landed on St. Paul Island. They killed seals on land, 95 per cent of which were females. At the time of these depredations the entire armament of the 38 men over 21 years of age on St. Paul tsland consisted of 12 rifles. On the other hand, each schooner probably carried a crew of more than 30 men. If the four schooners which were seen hovering around the islands on these days, and which were undoubtedly acting in concert, had united their crews in a raid, they could have mustered a force of upward of 120 men.

Agents powerless until poachers landed.—Without water craft the Government agents were unable to do anything to stop the poachers from killing seals in the water, using firearms, and engaging in other unlawful operations within the 3-mile limit. It was only when the crews of the schooners landed, or attempted to land, on the islands that they were able to make arrests, and those of the Japanese who were killed belong to parties which were caught red-handed and were attempting to escape arrest.

I have made the foregoing general statements at this point in order that you may appreciate the excitement and apprehension under which the residents of the island were laboring, and the courage they displayed when the crews of the schooners actually landed and attempted to transfer the scene of their depredations from the waters surrounding the island to the island itself. A more detailed account of the raids on the rookeries on St. Paul Island, July 16 and 17, is as follows:

Landing of Japanese poachers on St. Paul Island July 16.—About 9 o'clock on the morning of July 16 the native watchmen at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, reported a schooner, about 2 miles out, sailing toward the shore. Upon the receipt of this information Chief Agent W. I. Lembkey and Assistant Agent James Judge, each accompanied by three or four natives, proceeded to a point on the shore from which the schooner could be seen. These agents and their parties then separated and concealed themselves at points where landings were feasible, close to two of the principal breeding areas, and about half a mile from each other. The schooner, which was easily seen by these parties, continued to cruise parallel with the shore at a distance of about 2 miles out until 10.30, when a small boat put off and approached within a half mile of the shore. This movement was evidently for the purpose of locating the seal rookery, for upon discovering that there were no seals at that particular place, the boat returned to the schooner and was taken about a mile farther on to a point opposite the breeding areas under Hutchinson Hill, where it again put off from the schooner and headed for the shore. The boat shortly afterwards made a landing about 200 yards east of the largest breeding area on the island—that located under Hutchinson Hill—and a crew of six Japanese disembarked, pulled up the boat, and proceeded to cross the beach to the grassy plateau beyond.

A few yards from the water's edge they were surprised by Chief Agent Lembkey and the native guard under his command, and in compliance with his order threw up their hands without resistance. In reply to an inquiry, one of the landing party who spoke some English stated to Mr. Lembkey that they had come ashore for water. It was obvious, however, after investigating the contents of the boat that this statement was untrue. The only receptacle capable of containing water carried by the boat was a 5-gallon cask, which was full of fresh water. On the other hand, it was manifest from the presence of sealing clubs, skinning knives, and other paraphernalia for taking seals on land that the purpose of their visit was to raid the rookery. The men were accordingly placed in charge of a native guard and later in the day were taken to the village 12 miles distant on the other end of the island. The party effecting this capture consisted of Chief Agent W. I. Lembkey and three or four natives. The only arms of the Government agent's force were two rifles carried by the natives.

The boat in which the raiders landed was taken charge of by the Government agents, and is now in their keeping. It is of the Otter boat type, about 18 feet long, and in addition to carrying 6 oars, was equipped with a mainsail and jib. The boat and its equipment is typical of the small boats usually carried by the schooners engaged in pelagic sealing. The oars were muffled and the rowlocks wound with rope, which was greased with tallow, so that the boat might be propelled through the water without noise. The oars were fastened to the boat, so that when suddenly dropped they would not float away, and in front of each seat on both sides of the boat, and within easy reach of the oarsmen, was a canvas knife shield. The boat was also provided with a gun rack. When captured it contained six sealing clubs, two skinning knives, a compass, a cask full of fresh water, some ship's biscuits, a short sealing club for killing seals in the water, and bamboo poles, with iron hooks, for hauling them aboard.

The seal rookeries at Northeast Point, where the raid was attempted, are the largest and most extensive on the island. A conservative estimate, based upon an actual count of seals on certain portions, places the total number of seals on these particular rookeries at the time of the attempted raid at 30,000. Of these, 15,000 were females.

During the remainder of the day the schooner from which the boat put off continued to cruise around Northeast Point, sometimes close in shore and at other times farther out, but easily within the 3-mile limit many times. Upon my arrival at St. Paul Island, July 20, I examined, through an interpreter, the men captured, as above described. They at that time stated that the name of the schooner from which they came was the *Dai Ni Toyai Maru*—i. e., *Toyai Maru No. 2*—that she carried a crew of 32 men and had sailed from Hakodate, Japan, May 20, 1906. They stated that she was not a pelagic sealer, and denied that she was one of a regular Japanese sealing fleet, but admitted that since entering Bering Sea she had spoken two or three other Japanese schooners, among which they named the *Boso Maru*.

Other schooners sighted July 16.—At about the same time the *Toyai Maru No. 2* was discovered off Northeast Point on the morning of July 16 another schooner was sighted at the south end of the island. She cruised off the southwest part of the island within the territorial waters of the United States for about two hours. Reef rookery, the second largest breeding rookery on the island, is located at this point. No attempt was made to land, however, and the vessel finally disappeared in a fog to the southward.

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day still another schooner was sighted cruising off Halfway Point, which is on the south side of the island, and about midway between the points where the other schooners were seen. A native guard was placed at this point for the night, but the vessel, which was about 1 mile from shore, was soon obscured by the fog. Lukanin and Polovina rookeries are situated a short distance from where the schooner was seen. The reports of small arms and the boom of cannon, fired a short distance from shore, were heard on different parts of the island during the day.

Japanese poachers killed by native guard July 17.—About 8 o'clock on the morning of July 17 the native guard at Northeast Point heard the report of shotguns, which were evidently being fired at seals in the water a short distance from shore. The guards could not see more than a few yards owing to a dense fog, and at that time were unable to make out any boats. One of the guards went inland to report to Agent Lembkey at the watch house, and the two remaining, Michael Kozloff and John Fratis, proceeded to a point on the shore opposite the firing, and concealing themselves awaited developments. About half an hour later, during which time the shotgun firing on the water continued at irregular intervals, the guards discovered three boats a short distance out headed for the shore. The one closest in contained three Japanese, one of whom occupied a position in the bow with a shotgun in his hands. After the occupants of the foremost boat had lowered the sails, and just as they were about to land on the beach, the two watchmen, who had remained concealed, appeared on the scene and shouted "Hands up." The men in the boat instead of complying with this command hur-

riedly turned about and commenced to row the boat away from the shore. Guard Kozloff, who was in charge, motioned with his hands and called to them to come ashore, and when the boat continued on her way three rifle shots were fired in the water close to her. She did not stop, however, and the guards a few seconds later fired six shots in rapid succession directly at the boat. Following this shooting the men ceased to row and dropped into the bottom of the boat, and the boat slowly drifted in toward shore. The two other boats had in the meantime disappeared in the fog.

Chief Agent Lembkey, who arrived on the scene shortly after the shooting, recovered the boat and it was hauled up on the beach. Two of its occupants were dead and the other was suffering from a wound in the shoulder.

The boat was of the same type and equipment as the one captured the day before. Among other things it contained a quantity of food, fresh water, two loaded shotguns, and 146 loaded and 9 empty shells. Most of the loaded shells were charged with buckshot, although on subsequent examination some were found to contain a heavy lead slug like a rifle bullet. The shotguns showed evidence of having been recently fired. The boat also contained a seal which apparently had been killed with a charge of buckshot a short time before.

I learned from the wounded prisoner, whom I interviewed upon my arrival at the island, that the boat was not from the schooner whose boat had been captured the day previous, but was from another schooner, the *Mei Maru*. The prisoner further stated that the schooner carried a crew of 30 men and had sailed from Hakodate, Japan, May 23, 1906. At the time the Japanese attempted to land and when the shooting occurred, as above described, the entire force on guard at that point consisted of 2 natives, each armed with a rifle.

Poachers off Zapadni rookery fired on.—At Zapadni rookery, which is about 12 miles from Northeast Point, where the events just described took place, shotgun firing close inshore was heard at frequent intervals during the day and undoubtedly a large number of seals were killed in the water. These operations were carried on under the protection of a dense fog, and it was not until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when it lifted, that the native guard discovered three boats a short distance from shore. The boats contained about 18 men and were headed for land. The guards, two in number, who were evidently excited over the shooting which had been going on around them and who believed that the force, which greatly outnumbered them, was about to land and raid the rookery, opened fire without delay. The boats immediately pulled out of sight and it is not known whether any of the marauders were injured.

Poachers land and kill seals.—Notwithstanding the capture of the boat on the morning of Tuesday, July 17, the reports of shotguns evidently fired at seals in the water were heard off different parts of Northeast Point almost incessantly during the day. The boom of cannon, probably used for the purpose of signaling in the fog, was also heard at frequent intervals. The widely separated points at which these shots were heard indicates that several boats were thus engaged. A dense fog which hung over the island partially lifted about 8 o'clock p. m. and disclosed a schooner riding at anchor less than 300 yards from the breeding rookery on the west side of Northeast Point. Although the watchmen failed to discover it, owing to the fog, 18 or

20 men had landed and were at that time killing seals on the rookery close to the water at a point where their operations could not be seen farther inland.

The presence of the schooner was immediately reported to the watch house and Chief Agent Lembkey and Assistant Agent Judge, at the head of a force of about 15 natives, hurried to the scene. In the meantime the raiders, who had evidently been warned of the approach of the native guard by an outpost, hurriedly collected the sealskins already taken and embarked in their boats, and when the guard arrived at the shore they were already a few yards off and rowing for the schooner. Upon their refusing to come ashore in compliance with an order given by the Government agents, the native guard was directed to fire. This fire was returned from the deck of the schooner, but no one of the island guard was injured. The boats soon came to a stop and the order was given to cease firing.

The raiding force consisted of a flotilla of five small boats containing about 20 men. It appears that two of the boats were being used to carry away skins. The force under the Government agents consisted of 15 natives, only 6 of whom were armed.

As the boats drew inshore and it became apparent that the raiders outnumbered the native force, Agent Judge concluded that it would be dangerous to attempt to capture the entire party with a force armed with only six rifles. In consequence of this the crew of only one of the small boats was allowed to land, and the remaining boats were motioned off and returned to the schooner, which still remained at anchor a short distance from shore. Had the devastation which the raiders had wrought on the rookery been known at this time, none of the boats would have been permitted to return to the schooner.

The boat which was compelled to return to shore contained six men, one of whom was dead and one wounded. The body of one man who had evidently fallen overboard when he was shot floated off and was not picked up by the boats. It is believed that the body of a third was thrown overboard when the boats reached the schooner. The boats of the raiding flotilla were of the same general character as those previously captured and which I have heretofore described in detail.

Methods of raiders outrageous and cruel.—Upon making an examination of the rookeries at the point where the small boats were first seen, the Government agents discovered that the raiders had practically wiped out of existence one section of a breeding rookery. More than 183 seals had been killed. Of this number 120 had been skinned and the skins loaded into the boats, which had unwittingly been permitted to return to the schooner. It was apparent that the raiders had been frightened away in the midst of their raid, because 63 dead and wounded seals, some partially skinned and others untouched, were found. That part of the rookery which was raided was what is known as a breeding rookery and was occupied by several hundred female seals, new born seal pups, and a few breeding bulls. Bachelor or young male seals do not frequent these breeding grounds. All of the seals killed, with the exception of two, were females. When it is remembered that the killing of female seals is universally condemned, was prohibited by the Russians as early as 1835, and has never been permitted by this Government, the fact that over 95 per cent of the seals killed on the island by the marauders were females stands out as especially malevolent.

The raid was not only in violation of law, but the method of killing proceeded along the most cruel and inhuman lines. At this season of the year female seals have a nursing pup and are also pregnant. Thus the killing of a female results in the loss of three lives to the herd. While an actual count had not been made before I left the island, it is estimated that at least 180 pups died of starvation as a result of the raid.

Some of the seals were only stunned and not killed before being skinned. Upon their arrival at the scene shortly after the raid, the Government agents found that some of the 63 seals which had been clubbed by the raiders, and which had been partially skinned, were not yet dead.

It also appears that the raiders had been unable to drive away or kill with their clubs some of the large breeding bulls, which stood their ground in an effort to protect the rookery, and in order to render them harmless the raiders had pounded out their eyes with sealing clubs. When the Government agents and natives reached the scene these sightless old fellows still maintained their guard of the rookery. These, as well as the other seals which had been maimed beyond hope of recovery, were soon put out of misery by the natives. About 20 sealing clubs and 4 sealing knives were found on the rookery after the raid.

Results of the two days' raids.—It appears, therefore, that so far as is definitely known on the islands, the occurrences above described resulted in the death of 5 of the raiders, the wounding of 2, and the capture of a total of 12 prisoners, including those wounded. The prisoners, in compliance with an order of the Government agent, buried their dead on Hutchinson Hill on the afternoon of July 18. The wounded were early given medical attention by Dr. F. B. Smith, the physician on the island.

On the evening of July 18 a schooner was sighted off Northeast Point, but the Japanese prisoners, who were given an opportunity to examine her through the glasses, seemed to be unable to identify her.

Disposition of the captured raiders.—I arrived at St. Paul Island in company with Hon. George M. Bowers, Commissioner of Fisheries, on the afternoon of July 20, 1906, on the Revenue Cutter *McCulloch*, Capt. J. C. Cantwell, commanding. The Government agents and the natives were very anxious to get rid of the prisoners, and they were at once turned over to the *McCulloch*, which proceeded to Unalaska. At that place the 10 uninjured men were turned over to the deputy United States marshal, and the wounded men, who had been placed under the care of Dr. T. B. McClintic, were retained on the cutter.

The prisoners were again taken on board the cutter on July 31 and carried from Unalaska to Kodiak, where a preliminary hearing was had before United States Commissioner Fred D. Kelsey. As a result of this hearing they were held to the grand jury and were turned over to the custody of United States Marshal L. L. Bowers, at Kodiak, for delivery at Valdez. Chief Agent W. I. Lembkey and the native witnesses then proceeded to Valdez.

Raiders sentenced to imprisonment.—I have since been advised that all of the prisoners were indicted by the grand jury at Valdez, and as a result of subsequent proceedings each of them was sentenced to imprisonment for three months in the Valdez jail. While the punishment meted out to the raiders is hardly commensurate with the

outrageous character of their acts, still it must not be forgotten that they were merely seamen who, according to their own statements, went ashore in compliance with the orders of their superior officers.

Many schooners sighted near St. Paul Island.—During the week I spent on St. Paul Island schooners were frequently seen. On July 23 one was sighted cruising about 5 miles to the southeast; on July 24 at 2 p. m. one was seen about the same point, and at 7 o'clock in the evening another was sighted sailing less than 2 miles from shore off the salt house at Northeast Point, which at that time contained 3,700 skins. She was standing in toward shore when sighted, and the regular guard of four natives was doubled. On this day a guard of armed natives was also placed at Zapadni rookery. On July 26 a schooner was seen off Zapadni Point in the morning and another off Northeast Point in the evening.

As the *McCulloch* was leaving the island on the morning of July 27 the fog lifted and disclosed a schooner laying to, about 2 miles from Walrus Island. The cutter at once gave chase, but the schooner put on all sail and headed for a fog bank, in which she was soon lost to sight and escaped. On the afternoon of the same day the cutter overhauled another schooner, the *Tokiowa Maru*. She was outside the 3-mile limit, however, and as there was nothing to indicate that she had participated in the recent raids she was not even spoken by the cutter.

Since my return I have been advised that schooners were frequently seen in the vicinity of the islands during August, and that on the 8th of August a watchman on St. Paul Island saw a schooner make a landing on Otter Island. At the time I visited Otter Island, in the latter part of July, there were only a few seals there. I am informed, however, that later in the season the number of seals on this island increases and that more than 1,000 seals have been found there on occasions.

Raids evidently planned in advance.—It is evident that the four schooners seen around St. Paul Island on the days of the raids were acting in concert in pursuance of plans carefully laid previous to their departure from a Japanese port. At least three of these schooners sailed from the same port in Japan about the same time. They spoke each other after arriving in Bering Sea, and appeared off widely separated points of the island about the same time. It is improbable that these coincidents were accidental.

Government agents entitled to credit.—Chief Agent W. I. Lembkey and Assistant Agent James Judge are entitled to great credit for the intelligent and courageous way they handled what in my judgment was a dangerous and difficult situation. The native guards also demonstrated that they could be relied on in case of emergency, and are entitled to credit for the splendid support they gave the Government agents.

The Russian as well as the American islands have always been looked upon with envious eyes by the pelagic sealers. The Government agents knew that the year previous the crews of schooners, acting in concert, had effected a landing on the Russian seal islands and had held off the armed guard at least two weeks, during which time both sides suffered many casualties and many seals were killed.

At the time of the raids the entire male population of St. Paul Island, including the two Government agents, the company's repre-

sentatives, and all the natives over 21 years of age, was 38. The combined crews of the schooners which appeared off the island greatly outnumbered this force, and had they once gained a foothold there was nothing to prevent their killing an unlimited number of seals, robbing the salt houses, committing other depredations, and sailing away.

Knowledge of these facts, coupled with an appreciation of their helplessness and inability to stop the unlawful killing of seals in the water a short distance from shore, undoubtedly prompted the Government agents to take summary action when the marauders landed and attempted to transfer their operations from the water to the land. Manifestly the situation was one which called for such action.

While neither the law nor the regulations in terms direct the agents to use force in protecting the rookeries, their duty and authority so to do is beyond question. They are sent to the islands for the purpose, among other things, of enforcing the laws; are supplied with arms and ammunition, and are authorized to employ the natives in guarding the rookeries. They were familiar with the fact that poaching vessels had been seized by the agents and revenue cutters on previous occasions, and that on at least one occasion the native guard had fired on the crew of a vessel which attempted to raid the rookeries.

Lack of cooperation on part of revenue-cutter patrol.—The unlawful killing of seals within the territorial waters surrounding the islands, the landing on St. Paul, and the commission of other depredations, such as those of the past summer, can undoubtedly be prevented by the establishment of an active and efficient revenue-cutter patrol. It is imperative, however, if the seals are to be protected on their rookeries that a closer and more continuous surveillance of the waters surrounding the islands be maintained permanently in the future.

I believe that the inefficiency of the existing patrol is in a large measure due to the fact that the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service have failed to cooperate with the Government agents on the islands. As typical of this lack of cooperation, I refer to the following facts:

The records of St. Paul Island show that a number of times in the last few years the cutters which appeared off the island, instead of attempting to land or communicate with the Government agents as to the situation, have signaled "Send your letters," "Send a boat," "Make haste," "Can you send boat"; that at times the cutters have sailed away without any further attempt to communicate, and that one cutter left after the agent had signaled a reply "Will send a boat if possible," and while he was engaged in launching it.

The people on the island are not in the business of navigation. Their business is the protection of the seals. They have no boats to speak of and are not skilled in their navigation, and even if they were, it has not infrequently occurred that all of those able to work were engaged in a seal drive 14 miles distant on the other end of the island when some cutter appeared and raised a signal "Send out a boat" and then sailed away because it was not sent.

On other occasions when the Government agents have been able to man a boat and go out to a cutter, they have been informed that the supplies or mail, as the case might be, would be passed down to them, and that they could not come aboard because she was in a hurry.

On still another occasion a cutter proceeding from Unalaska to the islands absolutely refused to carry one of the Government agents who was marooned at that place, notwithstanding the Government agent informed the captain that he was acting under instructions to proceed to the islands as expeditiously as possible. As a result of the refusal of the cutter to carry the agent, he was compelled to waste three weeks at Unalaska during the height of the sealing season while waiting for the company's steamer.

Should take advantage of the island watch service.—The effectiveness of the revenue-cutter patrol would also be greatly increased if the officers of the cutters availed themselves of such information as the agents possess with reference to the presence of poaching schooners in those waters. The agents maintain a well-organized watch service while the seals are on the islands. Under their direction armed natives stand a continuous day and night watch on the high points of land in the vicinity of the principal rookeries and promptly report all vessels sighted. It is obvious that this information would be of great assistance to the officers of vessels desirous of maintaining an effective patrol.

A large part of the year the islands are covered by a dense fog and it often happens that a vessel may be within a few rods of the shore without being able to determine its exact location. No signals have ever been agreed upon and, while the Government agents promptly reply, by means of a small cannon, to a vessel's whistle, they have no means of knowing, in the absence of prearranged signals, whether or not their reply has been heard on the vessel. A code of signals, which it seems to me could easily be arranged if taken in hand by the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service,would obviate this difficulty and facilitate landings in foggy weather.

The necessity for cooperation and the isolated character of the islands can readily be appreciated when it is understood that the only vessels that touch at the islands are the company's steamer, which comes twice a year, and the revenue cutters, which call at irregular intervals. During the period of eight months preceding the arrival of the *McCulloch* on July 20, 1906, but two vessels had called at the island—the company's steamer, on June 9, and the revenue cutter *Perry*, for about three hours, on July 14.

The Government agents appreciate the desirability of preserving friendly relations with the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service and, so far as I was able to ascertain, have at all times stood ready and willing to cooperate with them. I presume it is for that reason that the occurrences above referred to were never reported to the department by them. I have referred to them here, however, because I believe that the situation is one that requires attention.

The officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service seem to feel and act as though the seal patrol which they are required to maintain is something outside of their regular line of duties, and that its maintenance by them is in the nature of a favor to the officers charged with the supervision and management of the seal fisheries. A patrol maintained under these circumstances can not be effective. If the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service can not properly be called upon to render this service, the sooner that point is settled and arrangements made to secure other vessels the better it will be for the seal fisheries.

Recommendations as to revenue-cutter patrol.—The patrol maintained by the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service has for a number of years past consisted largely of cruisers around the 60-mile zone in Bering Sea. The vessel detailed on this duty does not, under ordinary circumstances, reach the sea until about the 1st of August, that being the time vessels of the Canadian fleet are permitted, by the terms of the award of the Paris tribunal, to enter these waters The nominal purpose of the patrol is to prevent the vessels of the Canadian fleet from sealing inside the 60-mile zone. I recommend that this patrol be reorganized along the following lines:

One of the important provisions of the award is that which forbids the citizens and subjects of Great Britain and the United States to kill, capture, or pursue in any manner whatever, during the season extending each year from the 1st of May to the 31st of July, both inclusive, fur seals on the high seas in the North Pacific Ocean or Bering Sea.[1] At that time the females are heavy with young and the herd is proceeding northward along the Pacific coast and through the Aleutian Passes to Bering Sea and the Pribilof Islands. It is a most humane provision and should be strictly enforced. I am convinced, however, from the reports I received while in Alaska that at least five or six Canadian schooners failed to bring their operations to a close on the 1st of May last.

In view of these facts I recommend that a revenue cutter be required to cruise along the coast of Alaska from the 1st of May until the middle or latter part of June, along the ro te known to be taken by the seal herd. It is possible to ascertain with a reasonable degree of certainty the general location of the herd at that time of the year. The pelagic sealers know where to find the seals and how to follow them up. The cutter detailed on this patrol should also secure that information and pursue the same course as that pursued by the pelagic sealers; that is, in a general way, to follow up the herd.

It also developed during the course of my investigation that it is the practice of the vessels of the Canadian fleet to cruise in the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea before the closed season comes to an end, in order that they may be on the ground at the time it opens. It has been persistently reported that some of these vessels do not wait until the season opens before commencing operations. I therefore recommend that the vessel which has been engaged in following the herd northward along the coast from the 1st of May cruise around the Aleutian Islands, both outside and inside of Bering Sea, during the month of July.

This vessel should then be required to maintain the usual patrol around the confines of the 60-mile zone from the 1st of August until such a time as the vessels of the Canadian fleet cease their operations and leave the sea.

From my knowledge of the situation I believe it to be entirely possible for one vessel to maintain the patrol as above outlined.

An additional patrol should be established.—In addition to the foregoing, I recommend that a vessel of the Revenue-Cutter Service be directed to patrol the waters of Bering Sea in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands continually from the 1st of June as late into October as

[1] 3 Comp. Stat., p. 3005, art. 3.

the weather permits or as the pelagic sealing fleet of any nation other than that of Great Britain, is in those waters. This vessel should cruise close to the islands and should be required to call at each island not less than once every two weeks for the purpose of securing from the agent in charge information as to the number and character of vessels sighted from the islands during the time it has been cruising elsewhere.

The vessels engaged on the patrol should be required not only to cooperate with the chief agent of the seal fisheries, but to transport him to points in Alaska, to the various islands of the Pribilof group, and to comply with such other requests as he may find it necessary to make in connection with the discharge of his duties.

Officers should make detailed reports.—The officers of these vessels should also make a detailed annual report to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. This report should contain information as to the date the patrol is commenced; the course or route of the vessel; the number of days, exclusive of those spent in port, that the vessel was on the patrol; the number of times it called at the seal islands; and the time the patrol came to a close.

In view of the fact that one or more vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service have for years been engaged on the seal patrol, the carrying out of the foregoing recommendations will not entail any considerable additional expense on the Government.

Recommendations as to strengthening the laws.—The laws for the protection of the seal fisheries are in a very unsatisfactory condition and, in my judgment, are insufficient to meet existing conditions. As they now stand, they consist of disconnected and wholly unrelated provisions, which have been enacted at different times to meet emergencies, and as some of the later provisions modify or constructively repeal some of the earlier provisions, there is considerable room for confusion and doubt. It is highly desirable that all of the laws with reference to the seal fisheries be embodied in one comprehensive act and that existing provisions be strengthened and supplemented in the following important particulars:

The law should expressly set aside all of the islands of the Pribilof group as a special reservation for Government purposes. As it now stands, it in terms includes only the islands of St. Paul and St. George, in consequence of which there is grave doubt as to the status of Otter Island, Walrus Island, and Sea Lion Rock. Thousands of seals frequent Sea Lion Rock, and some seasons a considerable number resort to Otter Island. The islands referred to are only a few miles from the island of St. Paul, the largest of the Pribilof group, and it is essential that they be included in all laws enacted for the protection and preservation of the seal herd.

It should in terms be declared unlawful for aliens, as well as citizens, either to enter the Territorial waters surrounding the islands or to land on the islands themselves without a permit so to do from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, except in cases of stress of weather or for water. Vessels entering the waters for these excepted purposes should, however, be required to approach the islands at the villages and not attempt to land at isolated portions of St. Paul or St. George Islands, where are located the principal breeding rookeries. Landings on the uninhabited islands of the group should also be prohibited.

Those provisions which make it unlawful for any person to kill seals in the water or kill seals by the use of firearms, or by any means tending to drive the seals away from the islands, or to kill female seals should be strengthened and continued in force. No person, of course, should be permitted to kill seals on land except those operating under lease from the Government.

Authority of Government agents should be extended.—The Government agents on the islands should, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, be charged with the enforcement of the law and expressly authorized to use force in carrying its provisions into effect and in protecting the rookeries, including the right to make arrests. They should also be expressly authorized to designate, arm, and maintain a native guard to assist them in preserving order, enforcing the law, and in making arrests.

The chief agent on the island should be empowered to take action in case of violations of the seal laws similar to that taken by United States commissioners in case of violations of laws of the United States; that is to say, he should be authorized to conduct hearings and bind over to the grand jury, or commit, pending investigation, persons arrested for the violation of those laws.

Owing to the isolated situation of the islands, it is highly desirable that some person have authority to conduct an official investigation on the ground, where witnesses are available, in cases of arrest similar to those which were made during the past summer.

The act should also contain a provision making it an offense to attempt to do any of the things declared to be unlawful. The penalties for violations of the laws should be more severe, and it should be made the duty of the officers of vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service and of the Navy to search any vessel found within the Territorial waters surrounding the islands.

Authority should also be given to seize and forfeit any vessel found within these waters with seals or sealskins and the paraphernalia for taking or capturing the same.

Lack of proper arms and ammunition.—I also recommend that the department give early consideration to the matter of placing at the disposal of the agents on the islands a proper supply of arms and ammunition. Aside from a small brass cannon used for signaling and a few rifles owned by the natives, the entire equipment available for use in protecting the seal rookeries, and the villages and salt houses on the islands, consists at the present time of 12 rifles on St. Paul and 6 on St. George.

It is obvious that under existing circumstances it would be entirely possible for the combined crews of four or five schooners, such as cruised around the islands during the past summer, or for a crew of pirates, such as that on the *Carmencita*, which hovered around the islands last year, to land and not only raid the rookeries, but plunder the village and salt houses, where are stored valuable skins.

The handful of people on these islands can not reasonably be expected to successfully guard seal rookeries worth millions of dollars, and which the lawless crews of a score of poaching schooners are ever ready to raid, unless they are furnished with the proper arms. All the world knows that the United States owns the Pribilof Islands, and that in the exercise of its sovereign power and for the purpose of preserving the seal herd which frequents those islands it has enacted

laws making it unlawful for any person to land or remain thereon, and all the world should be given to understand in no unmistakable terms that vessels which approach within the 3-mile limit do so at their peril.

Recommendations as to arms and other equipment.—In view of the foregoing, I urgently recommend that the islands of St. Paul and St. George be equipped with a sufficient number of small cannon to permit of the placing of one or more at the various points of land and in the vicinity of the principal seal rookeries. To avoid all danger of international complications, the cannon supplied may very properly be limited to guns firing a solid shot and having a maximum range of 3 miles or less. Each island should also be equipped with one or more rapid-fire guns for use in case of an attempt by a landing party to plunder the salt houses or the villages. The supply of rifles and ammunition should also be increased.

I found on investigation that those interested in pelagic sealing keep themselves well posted on the measures taken by this Government to enforce its laws and regulations and the provisions of treaties with other nations. They are, for instance, not slow, as has been demonstrated by the events of the past summer, to take advantage of the unprotected condition of the seal islands or the laxity of the revenue-cutter patrol. In view of this fact, I believe that if it became known that vessels coming within 3 miles of the Pribilof Islands were liable to be fired upon, pelagic sealers would on all occasions give those islands a wide berth. Further than this, it must be remembered that the vessels which frequent these waters are engaged at our very doors in a practice forbidden to our own citizens and frowned upon by our laws—that of pelagic sealing. I can see no reason why any special consideration should be shown them. Vessels engaged in legitimate business do not frequent these waters. No one goes there for pleasure, and as the islands are more than 50 miles out of their course, commercial steamers never call.

It is also highly desirable that the Government agent in charge be furnished with a gasoline launch of sufficient size to permit of the mounting of a light gun. A vessel of this kind would be of material assistance in preventing the crews of poaching schooners from using firearms and killing seals in the water within the 3-mile limit.

The agents on St. Paul Island should also be supplied with a team of horses and a light wagon, and the necessary equipment for maintaining the same. The native village is located on the southern extremity of the island at distances ranging from 3 to 14 miles from the various rookeries. Without means for rapidly transporting the agents and native guard from the village to these distant rookeries, it is entirely possible for a boat's crew to land and raid a rookery before the Government agents can reach the spot and stop their operations.

Military guard not necessary.—I do not believe it is either necessary or desirable to station a marine or military guard on the islands. If the Government agents and native guards are supplied with the necessary arms and ammunition, they will without doubt be able to meet any emergency which may arise. This was conclusively demonstrated by the events of the past summer.

Duties of chief agent should be extended.—I also recommend that the chief agent, at least once each season, visit all of the seal islands,

examine into the conditions, and make full report thereof in person to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor at the close of the season. He should also annually investigate and report on the catch of seals by the coast Indians of Alaska. Under existing conditions it is impossible for the chief agent to do any of these things, and in the regular course of events he comes to Washington only every other winter. This is due to the fact that the present force consists of but one chief agent and three assistant agents. At least one assistant agent should be added to the force. The nature of the duties of these agents is such that at least two agents should be present on each island during the summer and at least one agent during the remainder of the time. It is imperative that at least one agent be present continually on St. Paul and one on St. George. Under these circumstances the chief agent, in addition to supervising and managing the fisheries, must discharge the duties of one of the assistant agents. It is therefore impossible for him to properly supervise the work on any island other than the one on which he is located. It is also impossible for him to report to and confer with the department at Washington each year, which in my judgment is essential. I recommend, therefore, that an additional assistant agent be appointed, and that the duties of the chief agent be enlarged as above indicated.

Killing of seals by coast Indians should be regulated.—Notwithstanding the fact that a large number of seals are killed annually by the coast Indians of Alaska, that branch of the sealing industry has received little attention at the hands of the Government. I recommend that it be investigated, with a view to its regulation and supervision. The department should be advised of the methods of killing and the disposition of the skins. In this connection I also suggest that the collectors and deputy collectors of customs in Alaska be directed to report annually in the fall to the department such information with reference to the taking of seals as may come into their possession during the year. They should also furnish detailed information as to all shipments of skins.

Importance of previous recommendations as to pelagic sealing.—In your last annual report you made the following statement and recommendation: "The decrease in seal life on the Pribilof Islands is directly attributable to pelagic sealing, and a strong effort should be made to secure international regulations which will stop it." The existing condition of the seal herd conclusively demonstrates the correctness of your statement and the wisdom of your recommendation. I am convinced, as a result of the study I have given the subject and the investigation made during the past summer, that the total cessation of pelagic sealing is imperative in order to preserve the herd.

Decrease in seal life due solely to pelagic sealing.—That the decrease in seal life on the Pribilof Islands is due solely to pelagic sealing can not seriously be questioned. "Owing to the polygamous habit of fur seals," states the report of the Jordan commission, "the greater part of the male life born is superfluous for breeding purposes. For the 130,000 breeding cows found on the rookeries of St. Paul and St. George Islands in the season of 1897, 4,418 bulls were adequate, or at least out of fully 10,000 bulls ready and willing to serve harems, only this number were able to obtain them. Therefore, only 1 bull in 30 is absolutely necessary under present conditions. That this limit could be materially lowered without positive danger to the herd is

conclusively shown by the history of the Russian herd on Bering Island, where the observations of the past three years, as detailed by Dr. Stejneger, show that a male fur seal is capable of attending to the wants of between 100 and 200 cows." [1]

There never has been a time since this Government came into control of the herd when there were no idle bulls on the islands. It is manifest, therefore, that the decrease in the herd is due to the killing of females, which are taken only by pelagic sealers. The number of idle bulls present on the island is a matter which has always been carefully watched. Three years ago, when it became apparent that there was a decrease in idle bulls, the department established regulations whereby 2,000 choice 2 and 3 year old males were selected, branded, and dismissed from the herd for breeding purposes before the company commenced taking its quota for commercial purposes. This action was not due to an entire absence of idle bulls, but was taken solely because they were decreasing in numbers. Furthermore, the result of the regulation is already apparent, and as soon as the seals thus reserved reach the breeding age, the number of idle bulls on the island will have again reached a safe margin.

Unnecessary and inexpedient to stop land killing.—Regardless of whether the Government concludes to again lease the sealing privilege or to itself conduct the sealing industry, it is manifest that the land killing of seals should not be stopped. It is neither necesssary nor expedient. It is unnecessary for the reason that there is no abnormal shortage in male seals which are killed on land; and it is not expedient for the reason that if no sealskins were used, it would result in the substitution of something else for Alaskan fur-seal skins. The two companies which have operated on the islands under lease from the Government have spent thousands of dollars in building up the seal fur trade. The first company which secured this right was for some years unable to profitably dispose of its annual catch because there was no demand for fur-seal skins. Fur-seal skins are now and have been for a number of years past in demand, because it is now and has been the fashion to wear them. The fashion controls the demand.

With a view to determining the effect of a rational land killing in the event of a total cessation of pelagic sealing, Mr. W. I. Lembkey, agent in charge and an expert in these matters, at my request prepared a table [2] which I believe is a very conservative estimate of the probable increase in the size of the herd. It is manifest from this table that if pelagic sealing is stopped, a limited number of male seals may be killed on the islands each year in increasing numbers without impeding the natural increase of the herd. It is my judgment, therefore, in view of the foregoing, that the killing on land should not be stopped, but should be permitted to proceed on a rational basis.

Reduction of herd to a breeding nucleus undesirable.—The suggestion not infrequently made in recent years that this Government authorize the killing of all save a breeding nucleus of a few hundred seals as a means of stopping pelagic sealing is neither sensible nor humane. In the first place, if left alone the pelagic sealers will accomplish this result in a very short time; and in the second place, it would not settle the question. Just as soon as the herd increased to a size

[1] Report of Fur-Seal Investigations, 1896-97, pt. 1, p. 119.
[2] Submitted herewith as Appendix B.

sufficient to make land killing permissible and profitable, pelagic sealing would be profitable, and the question would again be an open one.

A reconsideration of certain questions desirable.—At the time the points of difference between the United States and Great Britain with reference to the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries were submitted to the tribunal of arbitration, one of the chief contentions of this Government was that the Pribilof fur-seal herd was the property of the United States, and therefore that this Government had a right to protect it on the high seas. The decision on this point, in common with that on all other points submitted, was adverse to the United States. While it is true that the United States and Great Britain as parties to the treaty of February 29, 1892, "engaged to consider the result of the proceedings of the tribunal of arbitration as a full, perfect, and final settlement of all the questions referred to the arbitrators," [1] it is equally true that the scientific investigation and exhaustive study of the subject, which have subsequently been made by commissions and officers of this Government, have resulted in the discovery of new and important facts in connection with the points considered.

For instance, during the years 1896–97 a commission of eminent scientists and experts made an investigation and study of the whole subject. This commission was under the personal direction of Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford Junior University, who is generally recognized as one of the leading authorities on fur seals and the fur-seal fisheries. The report of this commission contains a great deal of information with reference to the life and habits of the seals and with reference to general conditions which were unknown and unappreciated at the time the matter was considered and passed on by the tribunal of arbitration.

Furthermore, the citizens and subjects of Japan, which is not a party to the award of the tribunal, have within recent years engaged largely in pelagic sealing in Bering Sea. In view of these facts it seems to me highly desirable, in the event of steps being taken to secure an international agreement to stop pelagic sealing, that the United States attempt to secure a reconsideration of the question of its property rights in the seals, if it may properly make such an attempt.

The fur seals are begotten, born, and reared on the Pribilof Islands, owned by the United States; they make these islands their home and have, so far as is known, always done so; they spend a large part of each year on the islands, and when they leave on their annual migration it is with the fixed intention of returning to them—this they do with unvarying regularity, never resorting to any other land. They are domestic in their habits and are subject to the control of man while on the islands. The existence of the herd depends upon the care, industry, and forbearance practiced by this Government. Without the protection which the United States furnishes the herd it would soon be destroyed. In fact it is within the power of the United States to absolutely exterminate the herd in one season. The habits of the seals are such that the United States alone can take the natural increase of the herd without injury to it. This is possible

[1] Article XIV.

for the reason that owning the islands which the herd frequents the Government can, in securing seals for commercial purposes, exercise the necessary discrimination as to sex and age. On the other hand, the taking of seals in the sea is necessarily without discrimination as to sex and age.[1]

Experiments with brands and tags suggested.—In this connection permit me to suggest that if, after full consideration, it is finally concluded that the newly discovered evidence has not effected a change in the situation sufficient to warrant this Government in asking a reconsideration of the question of its property rights in the seals, I believe that it would be practicable to brand or tag all of the seals born on the islands in the same way that the great herds of cattle which roam the western prairies are branded. In my judgment, action of this kind on the part of this Government would reduce the seals to its possession and justify it in protecting them on the high seas. The experience of recent years in annually branding 2,000 young male seals demonstrates, first, that a brand of a permanent nature can be placed on the seal without injury to the animal; and, second, that the branded animals return to the islands from year to year. In view of the foregoing, I recommend that the department conduct experiments with brands and metal tags. I believe it would be entirely possible to attach to the young seals before they leave the islands a metal tag on which might be stamped the words "Property of the United States." If this tag was uniformly fastened by means of a wire on the same part of the body of the seal, it would leave a mark on the inner side of the skin which would be sufficient to identify it in case the seal was killed, even if the tag had in the meantime been removed.

Statistical information.—For your further information I attach hereto, as Appendix A, certain statistical information with reference to the Pribilof fur-seal herd from the time of the discovery of the Pribilof Islands to date, as follows:

Table 1.—Number of seals killed on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, from 1786 to 1906, inclusive.

Table 2.—Pelagic and land catches from the Pribilof herd from 1868, when the Pribilof Islands came into the possession of the United States, to 1906; the revenue derived by the Government and the average prices obtained for the skins.

Table 3.—Size of the Pribilof herd since its discovery, in 1786.

Table 4.—Annual quotas allowed lessees of the seal islands and the skins shipped thereunder from 1870 to 1905.

Table 5.—Receipts and expenditures in connection with the administration of the fur-seal fisheries.

Very respectfully, EDWIN W. SIMS,
Solicitor of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

WASHINGTON, *August 31, 1906.*

[1] Final report of Hon. John W. Foster. Proceedings Paris Tribunal, vol. 1 p. 10.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, October 9, 1906.

MY DEAR SECRETARY METCALF: I return the admirable report of the solicitor of the department on the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries. Please have all the recommendations therein made that can be carried out without the action of Congress so carried out. I have written to the Treasury Department requesting immediate and thorough investigation of the conduct of the Revenue-Cutter Service, and I shall issue to them a warning that any dereliction of duty in this respect in the future will be summarily punished. There is one point upon which I doubt the wisdom of the recommendation. It seems to me that a detachment of marines should be sent to the islands and also that a small United States war vessel should cruise near the islands next summer in addition to the revenue cutters.

Please make public my letter of recommendation to the guard which took such summary and efficient action in repulsing the attacks of, and putting an end to the depredations of, the seal pirates.

Sincerely, yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Instead of sending a guard to the islands, we will send a United States war vessel during the close season, and as long afterwards as may be necessary.

Hon. V. H. METCALF,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, October 13, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. MURRAY: Will you be kind enough to hand to Capt. Worth G. Ross, Chief of the Revenue-Cutter Service, a copy of the report made by the solicitor of your department on the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries?

Yours, very truly,

J. H. EDWARDS.

Hon. LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Across the face: Presented to Secty. Metcalf in absence of Secty. Murray, Oct. 13, '06. L. A. C. Gave report to Capt. Ross Saturday morning, Oct. 13, 1906. V. H. M.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, October 23, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The President directs me to send you the inclosed letter from Secretary Shaw, and to ask if the portion of the report referred to can not be held until the investigation the Secretary mentions has been completed. Please communicate with Secretary Shaw in the matter.

Very truly, yours,

WM. LOEB, JR.,
Secretary to the President.

Hon. V. H. METCALF,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

NEW YORK CITY, *October 22, 1906.*

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I referred briefly last night to a report of someone, I think a Mr. Simms, which contains some strictures against the conduct of the Revenue-Cutter Service in Alaska. I now write to formally request that the report be not printed until the charges can be investigated. I think this is but fair. I say charges, because Mr. Simms, if that is his name, did not make an investigation. He made inquiry of no one connected with the Revenue-Cutter Service. He did not examine the log of any of the vessels. He stated that the cutters did not arrive at the seal islands until August. This year the vessel arrived on June 27, which was the latest date for several years. He says in effect that if they had been in the locality they could have prevented the capture of seals by the Japanese boats. At the time of the incident to which he refers, the boat was anchored at one of the islands. He objects that the boats are away from the islands so much. They have to go 250 miles for coal. He objects because the boat went to the west-most island of the group, which is 700 miles from the main island. Last year they found shacks of Japanese poachers on these islands and burned them. Their cruise has always included this island. The cutter's log shows that it sailed over 11,000 miles during the cruise. He says that the Japanese fleet contained 13 vessels. The cutter's log shows they boarded 16 Japanese vessels, a fact which Mr. Simms does not mention, because of course he did not know. He knew nothing about it except from hearsay. If I am rightly advised, his report does not give the testimony, but gives his conclusions. He must have obtained it from some source, but fails to give the source. I know of no better source concerning the course of a vessel than the log.

But I need not extend this. I wish you would have Mr. Metcalf withhold that part of the report until the matter can be thoroughly investigated. This is being done. The captain of the vessel will be in Washington at an early date.

Very truly, yours,

L. M. SHAW.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

OCTOBER 25, 1906.

MY DEAR CAPT. ROSS: I wish you would please hand to my secretary a copy of the answer prepared by the Revenue-Cutter Service to Mr. Sims's report on the Alaskan seal fisheries.

Very truly, yours,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

Capt. WORTH G. ROSS,
Chief, Revenue-Cutter Service.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, October 25, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. METCALF: As you request, I send by your secretary a copy of the memorandum prepared by this office, which I read to you at our recent interview, regarding certain matters in Mr. Sims's report of August 31 on the Alaskan seal fisheries, pertaining to the Bering Sea patrol by the Revenue-Cutter Service the past season.

Very truly, yours,

WORTH G. ROSS.

Hon. V. H. METCALF,
Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor.

[Memorandum relative to report of Solicitor of Department of Commerce and Labor on the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries in so far as it relates to patrol by Revenue-Cutter Service. Pages indicated refer to solicitor's report.]

Page 5: Report states: "Existing revenue-cutter patrol inefficient."

(*a*) The patrol has been maintained strictly in accordance with the requests of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

(*b*) No complaint has heretofore come from that department in relation to the patrol.

(*c*) The statement that the presence of a revenue cutter in the vicinity of the islands would have prevented the depredations of the Japanese schooners is not true, for, as a matter of fact, the *Perry* was anchored off the island of St. George on the morning of July 16, the very day when the Japanese first landed on St. Paul Island, 40 miles distant. If the *Perry* had been at St. Paul Island and the raid occurred on St. George, the same criticism might have been made and with an equal lack of justice.

(*d*) This season the *Perry* was designated for the seal patrol, together with the *Rush*, the latter vessel being ordered also to make the regular cannery cruise. This arrangement met the approval of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and a careful investigation of the reports of the operations of these vessels shows that they performed their duties zealously and efficiently.

The *Perry* cruised during the season 11,127 miles and boarded 21 vessels, of which number 16 were Japanese sealers. (Mr. Sims's report, p. 22, states: "The Japanese pelagic sealing fleet which operated in Bering Sea during the summer consisted of at least 13 vessels.") The *Perry* actually boarded more than this number of Japanese sealers.

The *Rush* made the regular cannery cruise in Alaskan waters, steaming 3,798 miles and boarding 75 vessels, of which number 18 were reported for violations of the navigation laws.

(*e*) Mr. Sims has evidently obtained no trustworthy information relative to the revenue-cutter patrol and has not examined any official log books, records of cruising, etc., nor made any effort to consult such records. His charges as to laxity are based on seven days' residence on the seal islands and interviews with agents, who themselves can not know whether the cutters are or are not actively patrolling in Bering Sea.

(*f*) In the summer of 1905 Assistant Secretary Taylor, of the Treasury Department, made a trip to the Pribilof Islands on the revenue cutter *Manning* to investigate the conditions, and no complaint whatever was made there as to revenue-cutter patrol.

Page 22. The raid on the islands this year was unprecedented and entirely unexpected by all concerned. (Mr. Sims's report states, p. 22: "The seals which herd on these islands have been undisturbed in the waters surrounding them for many years and they undoubtedly fell an easy prey to this unexpected onslaught.")

Page 41. (*a*) The report refers to alleged lack of cooperation on the part of the revenue-cutter patrol with agents on the Pribilof Islands. As a matter of fact, the cutters have uniformly endeavored to carry out both the official and personal wishes of the agents on those islands.

(*d*) The report states that the records of St. Paul Island show that a number of times in the last few years the cutters which appeared off the island, instead of attempting to land or communicate with the Government agents as to the situation, have signaled "Send your letters," "Send a boat," "Make haste," "Can you send boat?" Such comments indicate ignorance of the conditions affecting navigation in the vicinity of the islands. The landing places on the islands are exposed, there are no protected anchorages, and often it is dangerous for a vessel to remain for any length of time on account of the weather conditions. Anyone familiar with such matters knows that the nature of the surf can be determined more accurately from the shore than from a vessel, and that good seamanship will always dictate that the person on shore determine whether it is safe to send a boat through the surf or not; hence such signals as "Send a boat," "Can you communicate with us?" etc. The report gives no dates when the signals referred to were displayed. They were evidently picked out at random over a period of years. Doubtless each signal can be satisfactorily explained when the circumstances of wind and weather at the particular time are known.

During the past season the *Perry* communicated by personal interviews with the agents on the Pribilof Islands whenever the vessel was off either island, except on two occasions—August 11 at St. Paul Island, the sea being too rough to send a boat, and August 17, when the *Perry* communicated by international code signal with two points on St. Paul Island. These signals were: "Have you seen Japanese vessels?" and in both cases the signal "No" was displayed on the island.

Page 42. (*a*) Occasions when Government agents have not been allowed to come on board a revenue cutter at the seal islands, unless the weather conditions absolutely forbade, are unknown, and such charges should have been substantiated by giving the date and name of ship when the episode occurred.

(*b*) The report states that on one occasion a cutter, proceeding from Unalaska to the islands, absolutely refused to carry one of the Government agents who was "marooned" at that place. In the 38 years that the Revenue-Cutter Service has operated in Bering Sea no such refusal has ever before been reported to the department, and mere justice demands that the time when such an unprecedented occurrence happened should have been set forth, in order that the department might investigate it.

Page 43. (*a*) Officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service do avail themselves of any information given them by the agents on the islands. On July 14, two days prior to the Japanese raid, the *Perry* visited St. Paul Island and conferred with the agent; also St. George Island the next day. The report of her commanding officer states: "Received no important news at either island and proceeded to Unalaska." Thus two days before the raid the revenue cutter did confer with the agents on both islands and received no news of importance.

(*b*) The report refers to the absence of any prearranged signals for use between the revenue cutters and the islands. Communication has been carried on for years by means of the International Code, which answers every purpose when signals can be seen. The incident mentioned above, where the *Perry* ascertained by signal from St. Paul Island that no Japanese vessels had been sighted, shows the feasibility of communicating any important news to a revenue cutter coming within sight of the islands. The Revenue-Cutter Service will undertake the elaboration of any other system desired. No suggestion as to the necessity of another code of signals has ever been presented to this department.

Page 44. (*a*) The report states that the *Perry* was at St. Paul Island on July 14 for about three hours. As a matter of fact, the *Perry* was at anchor at that place on that date from 9.30 a. m. to 3.50 p. m., a period of 6 hours and 20 minutes. This misstatement is in line with the general untrustworthiness of the report in so far as it concerns the patrol of the Revenue-Cutter Service.

(*b*) If the Government agents were cognizant of any neglect of duty on the part of the officers of the revenue cutters, it was their plain duty to report such derelictions.

(*c*) The statement that "the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service seem to feel and act as though the seal patrol which they are required to maintain is something outside of their regular line of duties," is entirely untrue and has no foundation in fact. The service has patrolled Bering Sea since 1868. A large proportion of the commissioned officers now in the service, probably in excess of 60 per cent, have had experience in the Bering Sea fur-seal patrol. The idea that any officer would feel that his duty did not pertain to the service is ridiculous on its face, and any such statement indicates only an attitude of bias and unwarranted criticism.

Page 45. (*a*) The report says: "If the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service can not properly be called upon to render this service, the sooner that point is settled and arrangements made to secure other vessels the better it will be for the seal fisheries." Inasmuch as the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service have by their effective and continuous patrol of the Bering Sea prevented in all probability the entire destruction of the seal herd, no Government official can in good faith question the propriety of their continuing the performance of this duty.

(*b*) The following appears: "The vessel detailed on this duty (fur-seal patrol) does not under ordinary circumstances reach the sea until about the 1st of August."

The following are the dates of arrival in Bering Sea of the revenue cutters detailed for duty in Alaskan waters during the three seasons when the Department of Commerce and Labor has had charge of the protection of the fur-seal industry.

Season of 1904.

McCulloch	June 25, 1904
Perry	July 8, 1904
Thetis	July 12, 1904

Season of 1905.

Manning	June 14, 1905
Perry	June 16, 1905
Bear	June 16, 1905

Season of 1906.

Perry	June 27, 1906
Rush	June 28, 1906
Thetis	June 29, 1906

The statement referred to in the report is therefore entirely untrue.

Pages 46 et seq. The recommendations of Mr. Sims regarding the patrol are not new. The system he proposes was carried out by the Revenue-Cutter Service when the enforcement of the fur-seal regulations was vested in the Treasury Department, and at times on a more extensive scale than he suggests. Since the enforcement of these regulations was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor, conditions have changed owing to the enactment of the law prohibiting American citizens from engaging in pelagic sealing, and in recent years it has not been necessary to assign as many cutters to patrol duty as formerly. Assistant Secretary H. A. Taylor, of the Treasury Department, in a report to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated August 12, 1905, says:

> It does not appear that the necessity for vessels to protect the seals exists as formerly, as, so far as I was able to learn, there have been no poachers in those waters at this season.

The Revenue-Cutter Service has carried out its full duty in handling the patrol in accordance with the requests of the Department of Commerce and Labor, which has entire control over the matter. No suggestions for the improvement of the patrol have been received from that Department, nor has the Revenue-Cutter Service been invited to make recommendations relative thereto.

The report recommends (p. 47) that a revenue cutter be directed to cruise continually in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands, and that this vessel be required also (p. 48) to transport the chief agent of the seal fisheries to points in Alaska and comply with his other requests relative to his duties. It would appear a difficult matter for a revenue cutter to be continually in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands and also convey the chief agent to other points in Alaska beyond the islands. Mr. Sims apparently does not take into consideration the necessity for vessels to coal, clean boilers, overhaul machinery, etc. In fact, his whole report, in so far as it relates to the patrol of Bering Sea, displays an entire ignorance of the conditions confronting such a patrol and of the manner in which such conditions have been met with and overcome by the revenue cutters engaged in this duty.

Mr. Sims recommends (p. 48) that the officers of the revenue cutters make a detailed annual report to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. Full reports of their operations are made and have always been made to their own department, and copies are sent to the Department of Commerce and Labor for its information.

Page 51. In the solicitor's report it is recommended that it should be made the duty of officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service to search

any vessel within the territorial waters surrounding the islands. Vessels are now searched when permissible under the law, in accordance with the following instructions issued to the revenue service:

A mere cursory or perfunctory search of vessels boarded is strictly forbidden. The search must be made by two commissioned and one petty officer, and the necessary number of men who are required to remain on board until every part of the vessel where a sealskin or a shotgun or rifle could be concealed has been searched.

These instructions relative to boarding vessels received the approval May 26, 1906, of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Page 53. Relative to the recommendation that rifles, cannon, and rapid-fire guns be supplied the islands, to be operated by the natives, it may be said that the Revenue-Cutter Service is prepared at any time, at the request of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to place an armed guard under commissioned officers on the Pribilof Islands that will insure against any raids on the rookeries. In former years a guard was detailed from the revenue cutters whenever necessary.

The report of the solicitor contains criticisms and reflections that are entirely unjust to the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service who for years have preformed with commendable zeal and devotion the duties assigned them in cruising in the waters of Alaska. From 1867 to the present day, excepting only the season of 1876, revenue cutters have cruised actively in Bering Sea and Alaskan waters, where fog and gales of wind prevail, with imperfect charts, and where until very recently no lighthouses, buoys, or other aids to navigation existed. The work of the service in Alaska has been efficiently and earnestly performed. No adverse comments have been made in the past, nor can they justly be made now.

No other branch of the Government has been so closely identified with the Territory of Alaska from the day of its acquisition as has the Revenue-Cutter Service. No other body of men under the Government are so familiar with the conditions of navigation in the waters of Alaska as are the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service. No marine patrol could be more effectually carried out with the force at hand than has been the patrol of Bering Sea by the Revenue-Cutter fleet.

After a residence of seven days on the Pribilof Islands and interviews with agents on those islands who can know nothing of the details of the patrol, Mr. Sims takes occasion in his report to criticise the conduct of the patrol by the Revenue-Cutter Service and to describe it as lax and inefficient. Such an accusation is untrue and entirely unjustifiable in any sense whatever.

OCTOBER 26, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am just in receipt, by reference from the White House, of your letter of the 22d instant to the President relative to the report made by Mr. Sims on the fur-seal islands.

As requested by you, I shall withhold and not publish that portion of Mr. Sims's report referring to the Revenue-Cutter Service.

Yours, truly,

V. H. METCALF.

Hon. LESLIE M. SHAW,
Secretary of the Treasury.

OCTOBER 26, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. LOEB: I have your letter of the 23d instant, inclosing letter written to the President by Secretary Shaw.

I will see to it that that portion of Mr. Sims's report on the fur-seal islands bearing on the Revenue-Cutter Service is withheld from publication.

I have communicated with Secretary Shaw, as you request.

Yours, truly,

V. H. METCALF.

Hon. WILLIAM LOEB, Jr.,
Secretary to the President.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS,
Chicago, November 10, 1906.

Hon. VICTOR H. METCALF,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to transmit herewith a reply to the memorandum submitted by the Revenue-Cutter Service with reference to my report on the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely, yours,

EDWIN W. SIMS,
United States Attorney.

REPLY TO THE MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO THAT PART OF THE REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR ON THE ALASKAN FUR-SEAL FISHERIES WHICH RELATES TO THE PATROL BY THE REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE.

[Pages indicated refer to solicitor's report; letters refer to paragraph of memorandum.]

Page 5. (*a*) The report submitted by me contains this statement:

Existing revenue-cutter patrol ineffective. The patrol for the enforcement of the laws for the protection of the seal fisheries nominally maintained by the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service is wholly insufficient to meet the actual needs of the situation.

In reply thereto the memorandum states:

The patrol has been maintained strictly in accordance with the requests of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

In this connection attention is called to the fact that under date of April 2, 1904, Secretary Cortelyou inquired as to the possibility of assigning "at least one additional cutter to this service in order to determine with greater certainty whether the fur-seal regulations are being violated." He was advised, under date of April 6, 1904, that such an additional assignment could not be made without abandoning some of the regular duties assigned to the Revenue-Cutter Service on the Pacific coast.

(*c*) The memorandum alleges that the statement contained in the report "that the presence of a revenue cutter in the vicinity of the islands would have prevented the depredations of the Japanese

schooners at that point" is not true. The memorandum then goes on to state:

> For, as a matter of fact, the *Perry* was anchored off the island of St. George on the morning of July 16, the very day when the Japanese first landed on St. Paul, 40 miles distant. If the *Perry* had been off St. Paul and the raid had occurred on St. George, the same criticism might have been made. * * *

The same criticism should be made. A vessel at anchor or in port is, in my judgment, not conducting an active and effective patrol. A fleet of four or five Jananese vessels was engaged in the waters surrounding St. Paul Island for at least two days, July 16 and 17. If the *Perry*, instead of lying at anchor or cruising elsewhere, as the memorandum indicates she did, had cruised to St. Paul Island, 40 miles distant, a run of four hours, on either of those days, she would undoubtedly have frightened away the Japanese schooners.

Furthermore, it appears that if the *Perry* was in fact anchored off St. George Island on the morning of July 16 she failed to communicate with the Government agent at the village. Maj. Clark's log does not show that he had any official communication with the cutter on that date, although it appears that during the day a landing was made on one of the rookeries by a boat from the cutter.

(*d*) I know nothing about the movements of the *Rush*. I have always understood that she was engaged exclusively on what is known as the "cannery cruise." It is manifest that a vessel engaged on the cannery cruise can be of no service in connection with the seal patrol.

I have not the slightest doubt as to the truth of the statement contained in the memorandum to the effect that the *Perry* actually boarded more Japanese pelagic sealers than my report indicates operated in Bering Sea during the summer. I concluded my investigations in Bering Sea July 29, and the statement contained in my report as to the size of the Japanese sealing fleet was based upon information secured from the captain of the *Perry* on July 28 and from other sources previous to that time. At the time of my conference with the captain of the *Perry* I indicated to him my belief that the situation in Bering Sea was critical and that, in my judgment, it was the duty of the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service to cruise close around the islands and search and seize such Japanese schooners as were found violating the law within the 3-mile limit. I infer from the information given me by the captain and the statements made in the memorandum that practically all of the Japanese pelagic sealers boarded by the officers of the *Perry* were boarded after the date of my interview with him.

(*e*) The memorandum states:

> Mr. Sims has evidently obtained no trustworthy information relative to the revenue-cutter patrol, and has not examined any official log books, records of cruising, etc., or made any effort to consult such records. His charges as to laxity are based on seven days' residence on the seal islands and interviews with agents, who themselves can not know whether the cutters are or are not actively patrolling in Bering Sea.

The best evidence as to whether or not the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service were or were not actively and effectively patrolling in Bering Sea is the results accomplished by such patrol. During the past year five or six vessels of the Canadian fleet continued their operations for several weeks into the closed season; a number of Japanese schooners conducted pelagic sealing operations within the 3-mile limit in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands, and on two or three occasions

their crews landed and raided, or attempted to raid, the rookeries. It requires no argument to demonstrate that a patrol which fails to discover and prevent occurrences of this kind is neither active nor effective.

My report carefully avoids referring to any matter which can not be substantiated. The statements which it contains are statements of fact, based upon record evidence and first-hand information from responsible parties. I did not examine the official log books, records of cruising, etc., of the revenue cutters for the reason that I was not in Alaska for the purpose of investigating the Revenue-Cutter Service. The statements and recommendations embodied in my report affect the Revenue-Cutter Service only in so far as it relates to the condition of the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries. The charges of laxity are not based solely upon a seven days' residence on the islands, but are based upon observations and investigations made during the course of the entire trip.

Page 22. The memorandum states that "The raid on the islands this year was unprecedented and entirely unexpected by all concerned," and in support of this statement refers to a sentence in my report to the effect that the seals on the islands had been undisturbed for many years.

The fact that the seals had been undisturbed in the waters surrounding the islands for many years can by no stretch of the imagination justify the inference that the raids on the island were unprecedented and entirely unexpected by all concerned. On the contrary, the situation in general was such as to put an active and effective patrol on inquiry. The Government agents knew that the year previous the crews of schooners, acting in concert, had effected a landing on the Russian seal islands and had held off the armed guard for two weeks, during which time both sides suffered many casualties and many seals were killed. The officers of the *Perry* had positive information early in July that at least four or five Japanese schooners were in Bering Sea. In view of the fact that these Japanese schooners could no longer take fish in Alaskan waters their presence, it seems to me, should have put an active an effective patrol on inquiry as to their intentions. While the raids were, to a certain extent, unexpected, they are not unprecedented, and it is manifest from what transpired on the island that the Government agents and the native guard were prepared to properly handle the situation.

Page 41. (*b*) The memorandum attributes the criticisms with reference to the use of such signals as "Send your letters," "Send a boat," etc., to ignorance as to the conditions affecting navigation in the vicinity of the islands. Such is not the fact. I made most careful inquiry and investigation concerning this matter. I discovered that there were no protected anchorages at the island and that, as stated in the memorandum, the people on shore were in better position to determine whether or not a landing could safely be made than those on a vessel some distance away. I found on inquiry, however, that the Government agents always make an inspection of the landing places and indicate by means of a signal, hoisted at the various landings, at which place a landing may safely be made. If the weather conditions are such that no landing is possible, no signal is hoisted. If one landing is safe and another dangerous, the signal is hoisted at the safe landing.

The official log kept by the Government agents on St. Paul Island indicates that the class of signals I have referred to were given as follows:

Date.	Name of vessel.	Signal displayed.
1900.		
July 12	Rush	Send your letters.
25	do	Send a boat.
29	do	Do.
Sept. 4	do	Do.
1902.		
Oct. 23	Manning	Make haste.
1903.		
Aug. 3	McCulloch	Send a boat with Sinclair.
1904.		
Aug. 14	do	Send a boat. (All the available men were away at the seal rookeries and the cutter sailed away without further communicating with the shore.)
19	do	Have stores for you.
24	do	Send a boat.
29	do	(Anchored off East Landing. Did not communicate.)
Sept. 3	do	Have stores for you. (Bad landing, but she steamed westward before waiting for reply. Landed stores at Northeast Point on the same day.)
9	do	Have stores for you. (To this signal the island answered "Will send a boat if possible." While boat was being launched the cutter steamed away.)
10	do	Can you send boat?
Oct. 17	do	Send a boat.
1905.		
July 3	do	Have letters for you.

Page 42. (*a*) The memorandum states that—

Occasions when Government agents have not been allowed to come on board a revenue cutter at the seal islands, unless the weather absolutely forbade, are unknown—

and suggests that such charges be substantiated by giving the date and name of the ship when the episode occurred.

On or about August 19, 1904, the *McCulloch* visited St. George Island. In response to her signal "Send a boat," a shore boat conveying Mr. Judge, the Government agent, went out to her. The boat was given mail for the island, but its occupants were informed by the officer at the gangway that no one would be permitted to come on board, as the cutter was leaving immediately. Consequently she was not boarded, and the Government agent had no opportunity to advise her officers as to the conditions on the islands.

Page 42. (*b*) The statement that—

A cutter proceeding from Unalaska to the islands absolutely refused to carry one of the Government agents, who was marooned at that place—

is, as requested, herewith substantiated as follows:

On or about August 8, 1900, Mr. W. I. Lembkey, then assistant agent, who was proceeding to the islands in the company's vessel *Homer*, with important information from the department, growing out of the unexpected death of Chief Agent John M. Morton, was compelled to wait at Dutch Harbor for three weeks until the company's vessel resumed her voyage to the islands.

The cutter *Rush*, Capt. Cushing, of the Bering Sea seal patrol, was at Dutch Harbor during that time. When the cutter was about to sail for the islands, Mr. Lembkey hired a rowboat, went out to her, and explained to the captain the urgency of his mission and of

the importance of his reaching the islands at once, and requested passage thereto. The captain refused to take him on board on the ground that he intended to patrol around the islands and would not call in at either village. The cutter, which left Dutch Harbor soon after this refusal, sailed directly for St. Paul, where her officers notified the residents that Mr. Lembkey was at Dutch Harbor, and would arrive at the islands on the company's steamer.

It appears, further, that occasions of this kind are not, as claimed in the memorandum, wholly unprecedented, in view of the following occurrence:

On or about July 16, 1901, Capt. Buehner, of the *Manning,* under instructions to take Agent Chichester from St. George to St. Paul to photograph the seal rookeries, called at St. George and took on board Mr. Chichester. This necessitated the stay of Chief Agent Lembkey on St. George Island until the return of Mr. Chichester. In pursuance of an understanding between the agents, Mr. Chichester requested Capt. Buehner to return him to St. George Island about July 20, so as to allow Mr. Lembkey to go back to St. Paul Island and resume the discharge of his duties there. Capt. Buehner's reply to Mr. Chichester's request was, in substance, as follows:

Do you think I am running a ferryboat for the convenience of the Government agents?

The cutter did not, in fact, return Mr. Chichester to his station on St. George, and he was able to get back only through the courtesy of the British cruiser *Condor,* which performed the service at the request of Agent Lembkey.

Page 43. (*a*) In reply to the suggestion in my report that "the effectiveness of the revenue cutter patrol would also be largely increased if the officers of the cutters availed themselves of such information as the agent possesses with reference to the presence of poaching schooners in those waters," the memorandum states that the officers do avail themselves of any information given them by the agents, and alleges that "on July 14, two days prior to the Japanese raid, the *Perry* visited St. Paul Island and conferred with the agent; also, St. George Island the next day. The report of her commanding officer states: 'Received no important news at either island and proceeded to Unalaska.' Thus, two days before the raid, the revenue cutter did confer with the agent on both islands and received no news of importance."

The fact of the matter is that when the *Perry* called at St. Paul Island on July 14 she was advised by the Government agent that a sealing schooner had been sighted in close proximity to the island a week before her arrival. While the record I made at the time of my investigation is silent as to whether or not the officers of the *Perry* held any communication with the Government agent on St. George Island, it is apparent that if they did hold such conference they must have learned that a schooner had been sighted near that island on July 8. It is manifest, therefore, that if the cutter "received no important information at either island" she failed to properly cooperate with the Government agents.

Nor can I agree with the correctness of the conclusion reached in the memorandum that the news received was "unimportant" and that it justified the only revenue cutter in those waters in at once

abandoning the patrol and sailing away to Dutch Harbor, 240 miles distant. As I have before stated, the positive information that several Japanese schooners were in Bering Sea, coupled with the information that schooners had been sighted in close proximity to the islands, should, in my judgment, have been sufficient to have indicated to an active and effective patrol the necessity for maintaining a close surveillance of the waters surrounding the reservation. Chief Agent W. I. Lembkey, who during the past summer was stationed on St. Paul, and Assistant Agent Clark, who was stationed on St. George, are both in Washington and will verify the foregoing statement.

In this connection I have the honor to suggest that the best evidence as to whether or not there was a proper cooperation and as to whether or not the patrol was active and effective, will be that evidence which shows the exact whereabouts of the *Perry* from June 27, the date the memorandum alleges she entered Bering Sea until July 29, the day I left those waters. My report does not deal with the condition of the patrol subsequent to July 29. So far as the memorandum submitted for my consideration shows, she is accounted for only on two days—July 14 at St. Paul Island, and at anchor off St. George Island on the morning of July 16. Even conceding the correctness of the contention that there is no occasion to maintain a patrol until July 1, I suggest that the *Perry's* log will demonstrate whether the patrol being conducted by her was active and effective.

Dutch Harbor, the coaling port nearest to the Pribilof Islands is about 240 miles distant. It would, therefore, take a vessel making average speed (10 miles an hour) 24 hours to run from the islands to Dutch Harbor. Vessels having the same coal capacity as revenue cutters on the fur-seal patrol, coal in from 8 to 10 or 12 hours. Allowing, therefore, one day to go to Dutch Harbor, one day to coal, and one day to return, the *Perry*, knowing that a number of Japanese schooners were in Bering Sea and that schooners had been sighted from both St. Paul and St. George Islands, might have been back at the islands on July 19. She was still in Dutch Harbor on July 29 when I passed through there on the *McCulloch*. I do not know where she was from the 1st to the 14th of July. There seems to be little dispute, however, that so far as the Government's agents were aware she was in the vicinity of the islands on two days only—July 14 and 16. Where was she the remainder of the month?

Page 43. (*b*) The paragraph commenting on my recommendation that a code of signals be arranged for foggy weather, refers to the use of the International Code, during fair weather. I am aware that the International Code of Signals has been used with great success. My recommendation, however, was that a code of signals be agreed upon for foggy weather, and in view of the fact that the islands are enveloped in a dense fog a large portion of the time, it was my judgment that the establishment of such a code is highly important. The statement that "no suggestion as to the necessity of another code of signals has ever been presented to this department," in nowise reflects upon the Government agents or the Department of Commerce and Labor. It is obvious that the establishment of signals, or any other matter whereby landings at the islands may be facilitated, more properly belongs to the Revenue-Cutter Service than to anyone else.

Page 44. (*a*) I may be in error in having stated that the *Perry* was at St. Paul Island on July 14 "for about three hours," instead of having stated precisely and exactly that she was there for "a period of 6 hours and 20 minutes." This seeming inaccuracy is, however, of no importance as compared with a determination of the location of the *Perry* from July 1 to July 31. Further than this, my information was secured from the most trustworthy sources on the island, and the period of three hours, it will be noted, is qualified by the word "about."

Page 45. (*b*) The memorandum contains a statement of the dates of arrival in Bering Sea of the revenue cutters detailed for duty in Alaskan waters for the last three years. In the statement with reference to the season of 1906, I notice that the *Perry* is supposed to have arrived in Bering Sea June 27, 1906. In my judgment an arrival at Dutch Harbor or Unalaska is not an arrival at Bering Sea in the sense that the vessel has arrived at the point where she enters upon the discharge of her duties in connection with the fur-seal fisheries patrol.

The statement as to the arrival of the *Rush* on June 28, and the arrival of the *Thetis* on June 29, has nothing to do with the seal patrol. The *Rush* was engaged on the cannery cruise, and so far as I am aware the *Thetis* was engaged in other matters.

There is a material discrepancy between the dates of arrival on the patrol as shown by the Government log on St. Paul Island and the statements contained in the memorandum. This discrepancy will undoubtedly be cleared up by determining just what is meant by the language "arrival in Bering Sea" as used in the memorandum. In any event, it appears that if the vessels entered upon the patrol duties on the dates mentioned, they did not put themselves into communication with the agents on the islands, and therefore did not know the condition of affairs at the islands until a much later date. This is clearly shown by the following tables:

Information contained in memorandum as to "the dates of arrival in Bering Sea of the revenue cutters detailed for duty in Alaskan waters":	Extracts from the log kept by the Government agents on St. Paul Island, showing the date of the first arrival in the years mentioned of the vessels referred to:
Season of 1904.	*Season of 1904.*
McCulloch, June 25, 1904.	*McCulloch*, August 1, 1904.
Perry, July 8, 1904.	*Perry;* did not call at St. Paul Island at all.
Thetis, July 12, 1904.	*Thetis*, July 27, 1904. (It appears, therefore, that if the *McCulloch* arrived at Bering Sea on June 25, she did not touch at St. Paul Island until August 1. I presume her log will show whether or not she was in the meantime engaged on the seal patrol.)
Season of 1905.	*Season of 1905.*
Manning, June 14, 1905.	*Manning*, June 26, 1905.
Perry, June 16, 1905.	*Perry*, July 3, 1905.
Bear, June —, 1905.	*Bear*, August 28, 1905. (It appears from the foregoing, therefore, that if the *Perry* arrived at Bering Sea on June 16, she did not call at St. Paul until July 3.)

Season of 1906.

Perry, June 27, 1906.
Rush, June 28, 1906.

Thetis, June 29, 1906.

Season of 1906.

Perry, July 14, 1906.
Rush; had not called previous to July 27.
Thetis; had not called previous to July 27.

(It appears from the foregoing, therefore, that the *Perry* had been in Bering Sea 17 days before she placed herself in communication with the Government agents on the Government seal reservation.)

The memorandum states on page 8:

Mr. Sims apparently does not take into consideration the necessity for vessels to coal, clean boilers, overhaul machinery, etc.

On the contrary, in submitting my report I took all of these things into consideration. As I have before stated, it is usual and customary for vessels the size of the revenue cutters to coal in from 8 to 10 and 12 hours. If it becomes apparent that the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service require a longer time to coal, it will, of course, be necessary to increase the number of vessels on the patrol. In my judgment a vessel can not spend five or six days in port every time she coals and conduct an active and effective patrol of the fur-seal fish eries, at least during the time when the combined Japanese and Cana dian fleets number upward of 50 vessels.

As to the matter of cleaning boilers, overhauling machinery, etc., I am not familiar. I do know, however, that commercial vessels plying in the Alaskan waters make trips of several thousand miles without having to lay up for any extended time, either to clean boilers or overhaul their machinery. But, as I have before stated, I was not sent up to Alaska to investigate the Revenue-Cutter Service. I have no information, therefore, as to whether during the winter months they have the same opportunities as commercial steamers to overhaul their machinery and put themselves in shipshape for the ensuing season. It seems to me, however, that vessels manned with a large and competent crew of officers and men should have no occasion to spend any more time in port taking on coal, cleaning boilers, and overhauling machinery than do commercial steamers.

The memorandum states, page 9, referring to page 53 of report, that the Revenue-Cutter Service is prepared at any time to place an armed guard, under commissioned officers, on the Pribilof Islands, and will insure against any raids of the rookeries. So far as I was able to learn, there is at the present time nothing the matter with the armed guard on either of the islands, other than that they should be supplied with additional arms and ammunition. The Government agents and the armed guard promptly and effectively handled the raids on the rookeries. It was the operations of the raiders in the waters surrounding the islands that were carried on unchecked, and this was due not to the absence of a properly armed guard on shore, but to the absence of vessels in the waters surrounding the islands. In my judgment it is neither necessary nor desirable to station a marine or military guard on the islands, and I recommend that the department call for a report from the Government agent as to this matter before taking any action of that kind.

Respectfully submitted.

EDWIN W. SIMS.

REJOINDER TO A REPLY SUBMITTED BY MR. EDWIN W. SIMS TO A MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO A REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR ON THE ALASKAN FUR-SEAL FISHERIES IN SO FAR AS IT RELATES TO THE PATROL BY THE REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE.

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REJOINDER TO A REPLY SUBMITTED BY MR. EDWIN W. SIMS TO A MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO A REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR ON THE ALASKAN FUR-SEAL FISHERIES IN SO FAR AS IT RELATES TO THE PATROL BY THE REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE.

[Paragraphs are numbered to accord with designations in Mr. Sims's reply.]

In his reply to the memorandum submitted by me Mr. Sims endeavors to answer only certain of the points set forth in the said memorandum, ignoring other important points which serve to refute his criticisms on the patrol conducted by the Revenue-Cutter Service. The following matters are dealt with in his reply:

Page 5. (*a*) The memorandum stated:

The patrol has been maintained strictly in accordance with the requests of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

In his reply Mr. Sims states:

In this connection attention is called to the fact that under date of April 2, 1904, Secretary Cortelyou inquired as to the possibility of assigning at least one additional cutter to this service in order to determine with greater certainty whether the fur-seal regulations are being violated. He was advised under date of April 6, 1904, that such an additional assignment could not be made without abandoning some of the regular duties assigned to the Revenue-Cutter Service on the Pacific coast.

In his letter of April 6, 1904, referred to, Secretary Shaw stated as follows:

There are in service on the Pacific coast four revenue cutters suitable for the work referred to, and without abandoning all the stations under this department from Sitka, Alaska, to San Diego, Cal., but one vessel for the work indicated can be spared.

As a graphic illustration of the patrol of Bering Sea performed by the fleet of revenue cutters while that work was under the jurisdiction of this department, I forward here-

with a chart showing the tracks made by the fleet of cutters, the work performed by each being indicated by the different colored lines and any one of those lines will show the activity or vigilance of a single cutter.

That the Department of Commerce and Labor was convinced that the presence of one revenue cutter in Bering Sea was sufficient to meet the conditions then existing is to be inferred from the fact that no further communication was received from that department on the matter, and that for the seasons of 1905 and 1906 the Department of Commerce and Labor requested that the Revenue-Cutter Service establish "the usual patrol" in Bering Sea.

As indicating that the Revenue-Cutter Service has manifested an interest in the efficiency of the seal patrol it may be remarked that just prior to the season of 1906 the Treasury Department, not having heard from the Department of Commerce and Labor on the subject, called its attention to the advisability of making an official application for a seal patrol for the ensuing season.

The statement in my memorandum that "no complaint has heretofore come from that department (Commerce and Labor) in relation to the patrol" is emphatically renewed. There is not on file in this office any communication from the Department of Commerce and Labor that reflects in any manner on the efficiency of the patrol of the Revenue-Cutter Service in Bering Sea or that calls in question the zeal and attention to duty of the officers engaged in that work.

(*c*) The original report of Mr. Sims stated:

> The presence of a revenue cutter in the vicinity of the islands would have prevented the depredations of the Japanese schooners at that point.

Such an allegation is not true, and my memorandum went on to state:

> As a matter of fact the *Perry* was anchored off the island of St. George on the morning of July 16, the very day when the Japanese first landed on St. Paul Island, 40 miles distant. If the *Perry* had been at St. Paul and the raid occurred on St. George, the same criticism might have been made and with an equal lack of justice.

In reply, Mr. Sims says:

> The same criticism should be made. A vessel at anchor or in port is, in my judgment, not conducting an active and effective patrol. * * * If the *Perry*, instead of lying at anchor or cruising elsewhere, as the memorandum indicates she did, had cruised to St. Paul Island, 40 miles distant, a run of four hours, on either of those days, she would undoubtedly have frightened away the Japanese schooners.

The above rejoinder illustrates the injustice of Mr. Sims's general method of attack upon the revenue-cutter patrol in Bering Sea.

The facts in the case relative to the movements of the cutter *Perry* at the time of the attempted raid by the Japanese on St. Paul Island are as follows:

The first landing of the Japanese on St. Paul Island occurred July 16, 1906.

On July 14 the *Perry* touched at St. Paul Island, sent an officer to communicate with Mr. Lembkey, agent in charge, and learned that nothing unusual had occurred there, only one vessel, supposed to be a sealing schooner—although the identity of the vessel, owing to her distance off the island, could not be determined with accuracy—having been seen off Northeast Point a short time before the *Perry* arrived.

On the evening of July 14 the *Perry* arrived at St. George Island, and on the 15th sent an officer to deliver mail and communicate with

the Government and company agents. The officer saw Assistant Agent Clark, who sent his compliments to the commanding officer. During the afternoon of July 15 Assistant Agent Chichester visited the *Perry* and conferred with the commanding officer. Mr. Chichester reported that one small schooner, flying the Argentine Republic flag, had been sighted in close proximity to the island, but that no attempt had been made to land or raid the seal rookeries. Similar incidents had occurred in recent years since Japanese vessels had been engaged in pelagic sealing, but at neither island was any fear or apprehension expressed as to any attempt to raid the rookeries. Such being the situation at the seal islands on July 16, the *Perry* left St. George Island and proceeded to Unalaska to replenish her supply of coal.

It appears, therefore, that the *Perry* conferred with the agent at St. Paul Island two days before the landing of the Japanese, that she conferred with the agent at St. George Island one day before the landing of the Japanese, and that on the morning of the day the Japanese landed at one of the Pribilof Islands the *Perry* was at anchor at the other one of those islands. Without actual knowledge of the plans of the Japanese poachers to land at St. Paul Island, and without more than human prescience, the commanding officer of the *Perry* can not properly be subjected to criticism for his action at this time.

Mr. Sims's original report contains various criticisms of the revenue cutters because they did not cooperate with the agents on the islands; yet in his reply to my memorandum he criticizes the *Perry* because she was at anchor overnight in the vicinity of the seal rookeries on St. George Island in order that she might confer with the agent on that island.

In his reply Mr. Sims states:

> Furthermore, it appears that if the *Perry* was in fact anchored off St. George Island on the morning of July 16 she failed to communicate with the Government agent at the village. Maj. Clark's log does not show that he had any official communication with the cutter on that date, although it appears that during the day a landing was made on one of the rookeries by a boat from the cutter.

Maj. Clark's log is in error if it appears therein that on July 16 a landing was made on one of the rookeries by a boat from the *Perry*. The *Perry* got underway from her anchorage at St. George at 7 a. m. on the morning of July 16 and stood to the eastward, but Maj. Clark's log does show or should show that on July 15 an officer from the *Perry* did communicate with him, and furthermore that Mr. Chichester on the same day held an official conference with the commanding officer of the cutter.

(*d*) The reply states:

> I know nothing about the movements of the *Rush*. I have always understood that she was engaged exclusively on what is known as the "cannery cruise." It is manifest that a vessel engaged on the cannery cruise can be of no service in connection with the seal patrol.

Instructions issued to the *Rush* relative to her duties in Alaskan waters during the past season contain the following:

> While in Bering Sea in the course of your regular cruising, should you fall in with a sealing vessel you will be governed by the instructions heretofore sent to the vessels of the service assigned to enforce the rules and regulations regarding fur-seal fishing, as set forth in the copy of department letter herewith transmitted.

The *Rush* was engaged in the cannery cruise in accordance with the wishes of the Department of Commerce and Labor. This vessel arrived at Unalaska June 28 and was in the waters of Bering Sea until August 14. The fact that the movements of the *Rush* did not bring her into that part of Bering Sea where pelagic sealing was in operation is due solely to her duties in connection with the cannery cruise, on which she was engaged at the request of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

The Secretary of Commerce and Labor, in a letter dated October 23, 1906, and addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, says:

> In reply to your favor of the 16th instant, inquiring whether the work of the revenue cutter *Rush*, which had been detailed to make the Alaskan cannery cruise the past season, with Mr. John N. Cobb, of the Bureau of Fisheries, aboard, was satisfactory, I have the honor to state that I have been advised by Mr. Cobb that the work of the *Rush* was very satisfactory in every particular, and the thanks of the department are due the officers and men of the cutter for their cordial cooperation and aid in the performance of this trying work.

Mr. Sims's reply goes on to state:

> I have not the slightest doubt as to the truth of the statement contained in the memorandum to the effect that the *Perry* actually boarded more Japanese pelagic sealers than my report indicates operated in Bering Sea during the summer.

The discrepancy in the number of Japanese sealers, as stated in Mr. Sims's original report, which discrepancy he attempts to dismiss in the offhand manner indicated by the above quotation from his reply, has this direct and very pertinent bearing on the case at issue: In his report he endeavors to discredit the work of the cutter *Perry* and intimates that the officers of the *Perry* performed their duty in a lax and inefficient manner. He desires his report to be accepted as an embodiment of accurate and substantiated facts, which facts he endeavors to use to the discredit of the Revenue-Cutter Service, yet the official reports of the *Perry* show that that vessel actually boarded and inspected more Japanese sealers than the original report of Mr. Sims—said report being "based upon record evidence, and first-hand information from responsible parties"—indicates were in Bering Sea during the summer.

Mr. Sims says:

> And the statement contained in my report as to the size of the Japanese sealing fleet was based upon information secured from the captain of the *Perry* on July 28 and from other sources previous to that time.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Sims received no information from the captain of the *Perry* relative to the size of the sealing fleet, for at the time of this conference, which consisted of an accidental meeting between Mr. Sims and the commanding officer of the *Perry* on the wharf at Unalaska, lasting about 10 or 15 minutes, the *Perry* had sighted but one sealing schooner, which was boarded by her, and did not fall in with another sealing schooner until the 29th of August, a month after Mr. Sims left Bering Sea.

I observe that the statement as to the size of the sealing fleet, contained in Mr. Sims's report as originally submitted, has been changed in the printed report (p. 12) to correspond with the number of sealers boarded by the *Perry*, which information he received from my memorandum. As the *Perry* boarded 16 Japanese sealers, his estimate of the number in the sea, she can not justly be charged with having performed patrol duty in a very lax manner.

(*e*) The reply states:

> The best evidence as to whether or not the vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service were or were not actively and effectively patrolling in Bering Sea is the results accomplished by such patrol. During the past year five or six vessels of the Canadian fleet continued their operations for several weeks into the closed season; a number of Japanese schooners conducted pelagic sealing operations within the 3-mile limit in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands, and on two or three occasions their crews landed and raided or attempted to raid the rookeries. It requires no argument to demonstrate that a patrol which fails to discover and prevent occurrences of this kind is neither active nor effective.

The statement contained in the last sentence of the above excerpt from Mr. Sims's reply is denied emphatically and in toto. The patrol of Bering Sea by the revenue cutters for the enforcement of the fur-seal regulations has, since its inception, been exceedingly active and remarkably efficient. During the past season the patrol of the *Perry* was efficient, active, and energetic, and that it was not sufficient to prevent the unfortunate occurrences cited can not be made justly to reflect upon the performance of duty of the officers of that ship.

The most serious of these occurrences was, of course, the landing of the Japanese on St. Paul Island. It has been shown above that two days prior to the first landing of the Japanese the *Perry* was at St. Paul Island; that one day prior to this landing she was at St. George Island, and that on the morning of the day on which the first landing was made she was at anchor off St. George Island. It must be borne in mind, although the arguments of Mr. Sims tend to obscure this point, that an efficient and proper performance of duty on the part of the commanding officer of a revenue cutter will operate to prevent his being continually or even a considerable time in the immediate vicinity of the Pribilof Islands. If the *Perry* during the past season had cruised constantly in close proximity to these islands she would have been liable to criticism for not cruising on the limits of the 60-mile zone, within which zone Canadian vessels are prohibited from sealing by the terms of the Paris award. The orders issued to the revenue cutters for the Bering Sea patrol are officially approved by the Department of Commerce and Labor.

To quote further:

> I did not examine the official log books, records of cruising, etc., of the revenue cutters, for the reason that I was not in Alaska for the purpose of investigating the Revenue-Cutter Service.

This statement is accurate, and it is an unfortunate circumstance, in the light of his criticism of the revenue-cutter patrol, that he did not investigate that service, or at least try to obtain more trustworthy information to support his allegations. If Mr. Sims had expressed a desire to investigate the operations of the Revenue-Cutter Service in connection with the fur-seal fisheries, he would have been accorded every facility to make a thorough investigation. Such an investigation would have been welcome then, and I desire to state that a full and complete investigation of this matter will be welcome now. Mr. Sims did not investigate the Revenue-Cutter Service, but submitted a report seriously reflecting upon that service and clothed in language tending to give the impression that his criticisms were the result of a careful investigation conducted by him.

To quote further:

The charges of laxity are not based solely upon a seven days' residence on the islands, but are based upon observations and investigations made during the course of the entire trip.

It may be well at this juncture to give a brief sketch of Mr. Sims's entire trip, excluding his seven days' residence on the islands, wherein he had opportunity for the said observations and investigations.

Prior to his departure for Alaska, Mr. Sims called on a number of occasions at this office and had interviews with me relative to his proposed trip. These interviews were of an agreeable nature, and I assured Mr. Sims of the willingness of the Revenue-Cutter Service to aid him in every way on the duty upon which he was to be engaged, and he informed me that the assistance accorded by the Revenue-Cutter Service in this matter was appreciated by him and by the Department of Commerce and Labor. Mr. Sims said nothing to convey in any way the impression that he proposed to investigate the conduct of the revenue cutters in connection with the seal patrol or that he desired to obtain any information or to be accorded any facilities for obtaining information regarding this matter.

He joined the *McCulloch* on July 9 at Seattle, and on the afternoon of the same day the vessel left port and proceeded north via Port Townsend and Union Bay, at which latter place she took on a supply of coal.

Upon leaving Union Bay the *McCulloch* steamed up the inside passage out of Queen Charlotte Sound and thence direct to St. Paul Island, where she arrived July 20. Mr. Sims left the vessel at this place. The *McCulloch* then took on board Agent Lembkey and 12 Japanese prisoners and proceeded to Unalaska, arriving there July 21. On July 25 she left Unalaska and proceeded to St. George and thence to St. Paul. On July 26 Mr. Sims came on board the *McCulloch* at St. Paul Island and was landed again on the island on July 27, but returned to the vessel in a few hours. July 27 the *McCulloch* visited Otter Island and landed Mr. Sims there for a short period, then proceeded to St. George. Mr. Sims visited the island on this day.

On the evening of the same day the *McCulloch* left the islands and proceeded to Unalaska, coaled ship, received Japanese prisoners on board, and at 3 a. m., July 29, left port and proceeded to the eastward. July 31 anchored at Karluk, Kodiak Island. August 1 anchored in Lutnik Bay and later in the day stopped at St. Paul, Kodiak Island. (Mr. Bowers, Commissioner of Fisheries, was a passenger on the *McCulloch* on this trip, and it is presumed that the vessel stopped at places just mentioned in order to premit him to make the inspections he desired.) Agent Lembkey left the *McCulloch* at Kodiak Island with 4 natives and 12 Japanese prisoners, the latter being put in charge of the United States marshal. August 3 the *McCulloch* left Kodiak Island and steamed direct to Sitka, arriving there August 6. Mr. Sims left the vessel August 9.

It appears, therefore, that Mr. Sims's entire trip was made on the revenue cutter *McCulloch*, which vessel was cruising for the express purpose of carrying out his wishes and those of Commissioner Bowers.

Page 22. My memorandum stated that the raid on the islands this year was unprecedented and entirely unexpected by all concerned, and in support of this assertion I quoted the following from Mr.

Sims's report: "The seals which herd on these islands have been undisturbed in the waters surrounding them for many years and they undoubtedly fell an easy prey to this unexpected onslaught."

The reply to the memorandum now seeks to give the impression that the raids were either expected or their probability was suspected by the agents on the islands. It remains only to be said that if such was the case, the agents on both St. Paul and St. George were culpably negligent, in that they failed to inform the commanding officer of the *Perry* of their suspicions in the matter, or that they suspected the occurrence of a situation which they, according to Mr. Sims, were "prepared to properly handle." If the Department of Commerce and Labor was apprehensive of a raid, they indicated nothing of this kind when orders were issued to the *Perry* and sent to that department for its approval.

Page 41. (*b*) In connection with the allegation in his report that the revenue cutters fail to cooperate properly with the islands but are in the habit of signaling to the people on shore "Send a boat," "Make haste," etc., Mr. Sims now gives a number of signals, with dates, in support of his charge. Each incident he notes has been carefully examined, with the following results:

Date.	Signals cited by Mr. Sims.	Facts in connection with these signals as obtained from official log books.
1900. July 12	Rush—"Send your letters".	Rush stopped off Southeast Landing, St. Paul, at 9.45 a. m. this day and sent officer in boat for mail. Found landing impossible, on account of heavy surf. Boat returned. Received signal from shore, "Send surgeon." Full speed ahead, stood around island into village cove and anchored. Sent officer and surgeon ashore to ascertain what was the trouble and to get the mail; 12.15 p. m., boat from shore came alongside with Agent Judge, who called on commanding officer; 2.10 p. m., boat returned with officer and surgeon; 2.30 p. m., underway and steamed for St. George. (There is no record of the signal, "Send your letters," having been displayed from the Rush on this day.)
July 25	Rush—"Send a boat".....	This signal was displayed as noted. (There appears to have been no reason why the people on the islands, whose boats are right on the beach and who are entirely familiar with the landing, with the adjacent rocks, kelp, etc., should have not come alongside the Rush in their own boat.)
July 29	Rush—"Send a boat".....	The log of the Rush contains no mention of any signal having been displayed on this day. The Rush anchored at St. Paul at 4.20 p. m. this day, sent an officer ashore for mail and to notify Fish Commissioner Townsend that the vessel would leave in the early morning. Mr. Townsend came on board that night. The Rush left St. Paul 5.35 next morning.
Sept. 4	Rush—"Send a boat".....	Rush anchored at St. Paul 8.55 a. m. this day. Signaled to village, "Send your letters." Received answer, "Everyone sick with measles." Rush waited for opportunity to land, and at 4.15 p. m. signaled village, "Get mail ready." At 4.30 p. m. sent boat ashore in charge of officer for mail; 5.40, boat returned with mail; 9 a. m. next morning, left the island.
1902. Oct. 23	Manning—"Make haste"...	On this date the Manning was not at either St. Paul or St. George Island. On Oct. 25, at 11.30 a. m., the Manning stopped off East Landing, St. Paul Island, and sent in her boat with mail and received mail for the States. She signaled, "Make haste," which message was intended to bring about the speedy return of her own boat. (Weather overcast; frequent snow squalls; moderate to fresh breezes. That night wind increased to moderate gale.) Manning proceeded to St. George.
1903. Aug. 3	McCulloch—"Send a boat with Sinclair."	There is no record of such a signal. McCulloch anchored off St. Paul Island 5.30 p. m. Aug. 3, 1903. Sent an officer ashore to inform special agents of arrival of senatorial committee and to request them to come on board. Special Agents Lembkey and Judge came off in McCulloch's boat and conferred with the committee. During 8 p. m. to midnight watch landed Special Agents Lembkey and Judge in the ship's boat.

Date.	Signals cited by Mr. Sims.	Facts in connection with these signals as obtained from official log books.
1904.		
Aug. 14	McCulloch—"Send a boat." "All the available men were away at the seal rookeries and the cutter sailed away without further communicating with the shore."	McCulloch arrived off Village Cove, St. Paul Island, about 11 a. m. of this day. At 11.18 stopped and sent a boat to steamer Kruger with mail for St. George Island; 11.50, off Village Cove, set signal, "Send a boat." Stopped until 12.25 p. m., then steamed ahead slow. The vessel was off the village for over half an hour, but no answer to the signal is noted in the log as having been displayed on shore. If there were not enough men available to man a boat, there certainly must have been one man present to return the McCulloch's signal. The individual who read the signal surely could have answered it.
Aug. 19	McCulloch—"Have stores for you."	This signal was displayed by the McCulloch as stated.
Aug. 24	McCulloch—"Send a boat".	This signal is correct. A boat came off from the village and received the mail.
Aug. 29	McCulloch ..... "Anchored off East Landing. Did not communicate."	6.55 a.m. this day, fog lifting somewhat, ship underway and steamed around island. The ship did not anchor off East Landing but in Lukannon Bay, out of signal distance with the village. Weather foggy.
Sept. 3	McCulloch—"Have stores for you." "Bad landing but she steamed westward before waiting for reply. Landed stores at Northeast Point on the same day."	6.35 a. m. this day McCulloch stopped off St. Paul village and signaled, "Have stores for you." Answering pennant displayed on shore but no signal set. Vessel stopped 45 minutes off village, but her signal was unanswered. Steamed around to other side of island and anchored under the lee of Northeast Point. Sent boat ashore and communicated with village by telephone regarding landing of mail and stores. The McCulloch did land mail and stores during the afternoon of this day.
Sept. 9	McCulloch—"Have stores for you." "To this signal the island answered 'Will send a boat if possible.' While boat was being launched the cutter steamed away."	12.45 p. m. this day McCulloch stopped off Black Bluff and signaled, "Have stores for you." Received in answer, "Will send boat if possible." Vessel rolling deeply and therefore not advisable to lower ship's boat. Vessel remained off village 45 minutes. Then proceeded to Northeast Point and anchored. On the next day she returned to Black Bluff, signaled, "Can you send boat?" and received answer, "Will send boat." A boat came off from the shore and received mail and stores.
Oct. 17	McCulloch—"Send a boat."	This signal was set as stated and a boat came off from the shore and received and delivered mail.
1905.		
July 3	McCulloch—"Have letters for you."	The McCulloch was in Bering Sea at no time during the season of 1905.

While Mr. Sims picks out some 14 signals, covering a period of seven years, during four of which years the islands were under the control of the Treasury Department, he does not allude in any way to the numerous other times the cutters have communicated with and assisted the agents on the seal islands. The signals mentioned above to which he does refer are, as the record shows, not worthy of serious consideration, and are in a number of cases not borne out by the facts.

In connection with this matter of the signals displayed by the revenue cutters to "Send a boat," "Have stores for you," etc., it may be said that in the majority of cases the boat should be sent out from the island instead of one of the ship's boats being lowered and sent ashore. If a vessel is rolling deeply, the difficulty and danger of lowering a boat are considerable. On the islands there are boats at hand drawn up on the beach that can be readily launched. The natives are familiar with the rocks that surround the landing and have had years of experience in the work. When supplies are brought to the islands by the company's steamers, they are, as a rule, landed in shore boats manned by the natives. It is not easy to see why the obligation should rest upon the cutter to send a boat on every occasion.

Page 42. (*a*) The following is cited as an alleged incident when Government agents at the seal islands were not allowed to come on board a revenue cutter:

> On or about August 19, 1904, the *McCulloch* visited St. George Island. In response to her signal, "Send a boat," a shore boat conveying Mr. Judge, the Government agent, went out to her. The boat was given mail for the island, but its occupants were informed by the officer at the gangway that no one would be permitted to come on board, as the cutter was leaving immediately. Consequently she was not boarded and the Government agent had no opportunity to advise her officers as to the conditions on the islands.

The official log book of the *McCulloch* shows that that vessel was not at St. George Island on August 19. On the following day, August 20, she was off the island of St. George, but did not stop. A moderate to fresh gale was blowing, with rough confused sea, conditions that would prevent communication with the shore, and the log book fails to mention any such communication. I have ascertained, however, probably in reference to this matter, that on one occasion during the summer of 1904 the *McCulloch*, while en route to St. Paul Island, stopped for a short time at St. George. A boat came off from shore with the mail. The commanding officer of the *McCulloch* was very anxious to reach St. Paul Island before nightfall; he therefore sent the officer of the deck to present his compliments to the official in charge of the shore boat, with the request that he hasten delivery of his mail, explaining the reason for his desire to proceed as soon as possible in order that he might reach the other island before night. I have learned from the officer, who was officer of the deck at this particular time, the circumstances stated above. He does not recall the fact that the Government agent was denied the right to come on board the ship and is quite sure no such order was given. It is certain that had the agent any matter of importance to communicate he would have been given an opportunity to do so.

In his original report Mr. Sims made the statement that—

> A cutter proceeding from Unalaska to the islands absolutely refused to carry one of the Government agents who was marooned at that place.

And in his reply endeavors to substantiate the above statement as follows:

> On or about August 8, 1900, Mr. W. I. Lembkey, then assistant agent, who was proceeding to the islands in the company's vessel *Homer*, with important information from the department, growing out of the unexpected death of Chief Agent John M. Morton, was compelled to wait at Dutch Harbor for three weeks until the company's vessel resumed her voyage to the islands.
>
> The cutter *Rush*, Capt. Cushing, of the Bering Sea seal patrol, was at Dutch Harbor during that time. When the cutter was about to sail for the islands, Mr. Lembkey hired a rowboat, went out to her, and explained to the captain the urgency of his mission and of the importance of his reaching the islands at once, and requested passage thereto. The captain refused to take him on board on the ground that he intended to patrol around the islands and would not call in at either village. The cutter, which left Dutch Harbor soon after this refusal, sailed directly for St. Paul, where her officers notified the residents that Mr. Lembkey was at Dutch Harbor and would arrive at the islands on the company's steamer.

I have taken occasion to investigate carefully the facts in connection with this occurrence.

On August 2, 1900, the *Rush* was at Dutch Harbor when the steamer *Homer* arrived. At 6.55 a. m. August 5 the *Rush* left port and did not sail directly for St. Paul Island, as stated by Mr. Sims, but on the contrary cruised in Bering Sea about the 60-mile limit and did not arrive at St. Paul Island until 7.30 p. m. August 10.

Capt. W. H. Cushing, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, who commanded the *Rush* in 1900, in a letter to me states:

Mr. Lembkey asked me if I was going to the islands and when I expected to arrive there. I told him I was not going direct to either one, but intended to cruise continuously around St. George and St. Paul Islands, making the full circle of both at the 60-mile limit. I was anxious to do it at this time, as word had been brought me after I arrived at Dutch Harbor that some sealing schooners had been seen inside the 60-mile limit. Mr. Lembkey never told me about his "important information growing out of the unexpected death of Mr. Morton." If he had done so, I should certainly have landed him at one of the islands, but he seemed to be just as well satisfied to go up on the *Homer*, and at that time I understood she would be at the islands as soon as we would.

I wish to say here that if Mr. Lembkey had shown me or told me of any great urgency, or the importance of his reaching the islands, and I had been obliged to refuse him, I certainly would have considered it important enough to have made an entry in the ship's journal and given a reason.

The official log of the *Rush* contains no entry relative to any application from Mr. Lembkey to be taken on the *Rush* to the seal islands. On his previous cruise Capt. Cushing was asked by Mr. Townsend, an official of the Fish Commission, to be taken to the islands. Capt. Cushing acceded at once, received Mr. Townsend in his cabin, and carried him to St. George and St. Paul. After cruising around the islands, the *Rush* returned to St. Paul for Mr. Townsend on July 29 and brought him back to Dutch Harbor. This incident is mentioned to show that it is not likely that Capt. Cushing would have made any distinction between Mr. Townsend and Mr. Lembkey.

In this connection it would be interesting to know how and at what time Mr. Lembkey became aware of the death of Chief Agent Morton and of the "important information from the department" growing out of Mr. Morton's death.

Mr. Morton died July 15, 1900, and the department first learned of it on August 14, about 10 days after Mr. Lembkey made his request to Capt. Cushing at Dutch Harbor, by a telegram from Special Agent Power at San Francisco. Up to August 5, the date the *Rush* left port, Mr. Lembkey had certainly received no "important information from the department growing out of the unexpected death of Chief Agent Morton."

Mr. Sims says that Mr. Lembkey "was compelled to wait at Dutch Harbor for three weeks until the company's vessel resumed her voyage to the islands." The *Homer*, with Mr. Lembkey on board, arrived at Dutch Harbor August 2, and Capt. Cushing informs me that upon his return to Dutch Harbor, on August 18, he did not see Mr. Lembkey there.

Capt. Cushing performed such efficient work with the *Rush* during the season of 1900 that he received a letter from the then chief of the Revenue-Cutter Service, Capt. Shoemaker, expressing his "sincere appreciation of the fine work of your (his) command in every direction and relation throughout the season just ended," and continuing, "better satisfaction could not have been given nor more efficient work performed than that done by the *Rush*."

That Capt. Cushing rendered every assistance and extended every courtesy in his power to the agents on the seal islands seems to be borne out by a letter to him from Agent E. W. Clark, dated August 30, 1900, which states:

MY DEAR CUSHING: Mrs. Clark and I are at last on our way to San Francisco. We have to thank you for many kindnesses, and I drop this line to express our acknowl-

edgments and the wish that you may have a safe and comfortable return trip with the *Rush*. * * * Remember me kindly to all the gentlemen on board. Should you come East do not fail to look us up.

Sincerely, your friend, EZRA W. CLARK.

The following alleged occurrence is narrated by Mr. Sims:

On or about July 16, 1901, Capt. Buhner, of the *Manning*, under instructions to take Agent Chichester from St. George to St. Paul to photograph the seal rookeries, called at St. George and took on board Mr. Chichester. This necessitated the stay of Chief Agent Lembkey on St. George Island until the return of Mr. Chichester. In pursuance of an understanding between the agents, Mr. Chichester requested Capt. Buhner to return him to St. George Island about July 20, so as to allow Mr. Lembkey to go back to St. Paul Island and resume the discharge of his duties there. Capt. Buhner's reply to Mr. Chichester's request was, in substance, as follows:

"Do you think I am running a ferryboat for the convenience of the Government agents?"

The cutter did not, in fact, return Mr. Chichester to his station on St. George, and he was able to get back only through the courtesy of the British cruiser *Condor*, which performed the service at the request of Agent Lembkey.

The facts in this case are as follows:

July 3, Agent Chichester came on board the *Manning* at St. George Island. He was transported to St. Paul and landed there July 4. The *Manning* returned to St. George on the 5th to drag for an anchor, which she had lost there a few days previously, then proceeded to Dutch Harbor. During the remainder of the month in the course of her cruising in Bering Sea, the *Manning* sighted St. George Island twice, but did not visit St. Paul until August 14.

There is no record in the log of the *Manning* of any refusal on the part of Capt. Buhner to transport the agents, and I am unable to say whether Mr. Sims has correctly quoted Capt. Buhner's remarks, or whether, in view of the possibly greater importance of the *Manning's* cruising in Bering Sea, Capt. Buhner was justified in his alleged refusal to return Mr. Chichester to St. George at that time.

Knowing as I do that the uniform course of the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service in Bering Sea for many years has been to do everything in their power for the comfort and convenience of the agents on the seal islands, without orders from the department and without official request from the agents, I confess to a feeling of indignation to note these last three alleged occurrences, one six years, one five years, and another two years ago, two of them at a time when the islands were under the control of the Treasury Department, picked out with what appears to be an intention to give an entirely wrong impression as to the bearing of the officers of the service toward these agents.

That the cutters have been consistent in complying, whenever possible with the requests of the agents, whether those requests were of an official nature or solely for their personal convenience, can be easily and fully proven. The following is a case in point:

In a letter dated May 11, 1904, to Capt. Shoemaker, then Chief of the Revenue-Cutter Service, Mr. Lembkey requested "as a personal favor" that his wife be furnished transportation on the *Bear* from Dutch Harbor to St. Paul Island. In compliance with this request the commanding officer of the *Bear* was directed to receive Mrs. Lembkey on board and transport her to St. Paul Island as requested. The *Bear*, however, met with an accident and did not make the cruise, and was therefore not able to take Mrs. Lembkey to St. Paul.

If the incidents cited by Mr. Sims were such as to imply a laxity in the performance of duty by officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service, why did the agents on the seal islands not report the circumstances at the time to the Treasury Department, under which they were then serving?

Page 43. (*a*) I stated in my memorandum that the commanding officer of the *Perry* noted in his report that upon conferring with the agents on St. Paul and St. George on July 14 and 15, respectively, he "received no important news at either island."

Mr. Sims states:

> It is apparent that if they (the officers of the *Perry*) did hold such conference, they must have learned that a schooner had been sighted near that island (St. George) on July 8.

Compare this admission that the *Perry* possibly did confer with the agent on St. George with the statement on page 2 of the reply: "Furthermore, it appears that if the *Perry* was in fact anchored off St. George Island on the morning of July 16 she failed to communicate with the Government agent at the village."

To quote further:

> It is manifest, therefore, that if the *Perry* received no important information at either island, she failed to properly cooperate with the Government agents.

It is difficult to conceive how the officers of the *Perry* can properly be blamed for any failure on the part of the agents to acquaint them with news of importance or of their suspicions of a contemplated raid. The fact that a schooner had been sighted on July 8 near the island, one week before this conference, can by no stretch of the imagination be considered as news of importance bearing on the probability of a contemplated raid, and a frank and truthful statement from the agent on St. George will bear out this assertion.

I call attention to this situation: A vessel had been sighted off St. Paul a few days before the *Perry* called at that island; one sealing schooner was sighted off St. George a few days before the *Perry* conferred with the agent there. Assuming the knowledge that a raid was imminent, where should the *Perry* be to prevent such raid? She could not well be at both islands (40 miles apart) at the same time. As a matter of fact, she was at St. George on the morning of the very day the Japanese first landed on St. Paul. Criticism of her course in the matter is as unfounded as it is unjust.

The reply of Mr. Sims goes on to state:

> In this connection I have the honor to suggest that the best evidence as to whether or not there was a proper cooperation and as to whether or not the patrol was active and effective will be that evidence which shows the exact whereabouts of the *Perry* from July 27, the date the memorandum alleges she entered Bering Sea, until July 29, the day I left those waters.

The criticisms made by Mr. Sims reflect on the conduct of the revenue-cutter patrol for a number of years past (note his strictures on alleged incidents as far back as 1900), yet he asks the whereabouts of the *Perry* from June 27 to July 29, because he knows that for a considerable time during this period the *Perry* was lying disabled at Dutch Harbor as the result of an unforeseen and unpreventable accident to her machinery. The implication that his criticisms are based solely on the movements of the *Perry* during the specific period from June 27 to July 29 is sophistry.

The following shows the whereabouts of the *Perry* from June 27 to July 29:

June 27, arrived at Unalaska 8.15 p. m., from Seattle.
June 28–30, coaling, landing stores, blowing down boiler, etc.
July 1, Sunday.
July 2–3, cleaning boiler and overhauling machinery.
July 4, holiday.
July 5–17, cruising in Bering Sea. On the 5th touched at the Bogoslof Islands to examine new island that recently arose from the ocean.

(Under date of June 23 the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the Department of Commerce and Labor requested that a revenue cutter verify the rumor of a third island having arisen, saying: "It is very desirable in the interest of science as well as of navigation that this report be verified.")

Extended cruise to the westward as far as Attu Island and returned via Pribilof Islands.

The object of going to Attu was to inquire into the rumor that Japanese fishing vessels had returned to that place in September, 1905, after having been warned away by the *Perry* the previous season, and also to distribute to the destitute natives there a portion of the clothing sent on board by the Women's National Relief Society for that purpose. The natives were found in a destitute condition.

(The *Perry* visited Attu in 1905 and Mr. Sims himself expressed the opinion that she did good work on the occasion of that visit.)

Touched at St. Paul July 14 and at St. George July 15. Left St. George July 16, returned to Unalaska for coal, arriving July 17.

July 18–21, at Unalaska coaling ship. Ready for sea 20th, delayed sailing account of unfavorable weather conditions.

July 21 *McCulloch* arrived with Agent Lembkey and the Japanese prisoners. Conferred with Agent Lembkey and commanding officer of *McCulloch*. It was decided that the *Perry* should proceed to St. Paul to secure witnesses and pick up Messrs. Sims and Bowers.

July 22–28, left Unalaska July 22 and proceeded to Dutch Harbor to take on island mail. When the main engine was again started the air-pump head carried away and disabled the engine completely. The repairs were made as expeditiously as possible by the force on board and proved to have been made in a satisfactory manner, as the vessel was able to continue her patrol duty until the close of the season.

(A board was at once convened to investigate this accident to the engine. The report of this board was submitted to the department and indorsed by the Engineer in Chief as follows: "The repairs to the air pump of the *Perry* were commenced promptly on the morning of July 23, 1906, immediately after the receipt of the report of the board recommending what repairs were necessary. The engineer's log book for the month shows that all hands were employed on these repairs continuously from July 23 to 10 a. m. July 27, when repairs were finished, the engine turned over, and the pump found to work satisfactorily. That the repairs were properly made at that time is evidenced by the fact that the vessel was enabled to complete her season's work and return to Seattle without further difficulty from that source. In my opinion no other method of repair could have been adopted, considering the very limited resources at hand, which would have enabled the vessel to have proceeded with safety on a Bering Sea cruise any sooner than she did.")

While the repairs were being made the *McCulloch* performed the work arranged for the *Perry*, and in order that the *McCulloch* should not be unnecessarily delayed on her return to Unalaska the crew of the *Perry* was employed in sacking coal for use on the *McCulloch*.

The repairs to the *Perry's* machinery were completed July 27. The *McCulloch* was due to return the 28th, so the *Perry* awaited her arrival in order that the commanding officer of the *Perry* might confer with the commanding officer of the *McCulloch* and the officials from the island.

July 29, *Perry* proceeded to sea.

In his report Mr. Sims recommended that the vessel on the patrol be required to communicate not less than once in two weeks with the agents on the seal islands. During the past season the commanding officer of the *Perry* from the date of the arrival of that vessel in Bering Sea, June 27, to the date of the *Perry's* departure from the sea, September 16, communicated with the Government agents either in person, or through an officer, or by means of the International Code of Signals, 16 times, or an average of once in five days.

The reply states:

The *Perry* knowing that a number of Japanese schooners were in Bering Sea and that schooners had been sighted from both St. Paul and St. George Islands, might have been back at the islands on July 19. She was still in Dutch Harbor on July 29 when I passed through there on the *McCulloch*.

Mr. Sims knows perfectly well that the *Perry* endeavored to return to the islands and of the accident to her machinery described above. (Mr. Lembkey was on board the *Perry* when the accident occurred.) Why does he then endeavor to give the impression that the *Perry* remained in port until July 29 without any valid reason?

Mr. Sims left Dutch Harbor on the *McCulloch* at 3.30 a. m. on the 29th, and at 6 a. m. the *Perry* went to sea.

Page 43. (*b*) The arrangement of a code of signals for communication between the islands and the cutters in foggy weather is not a matter for contention, and is mentioned here solely that no point of Mr. Sims's reply may appear to have been overlooked. While the establishment of an effective system of sound signals is, I believe, impracticable, because the islands have no way of sending sound signals, the Revenue-Cutter Service is ready to do its part in the elaboration of any system desired.

Page 44. (*2*) Mr. Sims admits the inaccuracy of his statement that the *Perry* was at St. Paul Island on July 14 "for about three hours." "This seeming inaccuracy is, however," he says, "of no importance * * *," and he continues: "My information was secured from the most trustworthy sources on the island * * *."

The inaccuracy is of this importance: That it indicates that "the most trustworthy sources on the island" have supplied him generally with inaccurate and misleading information relative to the revenue-cutter patrol. The Revenue-Cutter Service has all the facts bearing on this matter, and, as I stated in my memorandum, Mr. Sims has practically none and has apparently made no effort to secure any.

Page 45. (*b*) The statement in Mr. Sims's report, "the vessel detailed on this duty (seal patrol) does not, under ordinary circumstances, reach the sea until about the 1st of August," is not true, and was so proven in my memorandum setting forth the dates of arrival of the revenue cutters for the last three seasons.

His statement, as quoted, is capable of only one construction, and can not be twisted to mean anything else; but, in an effort to avoid the admission of error in this matter, Mr. Sims now advances the ingenious argument that an arrival at the seal islands constitutes an arrival in Bering Sea, and says: "In my judgment, an arrival at Dutch Harbor, or Unalaska, is not an arrival in Bering Sea in the sense that the vessel has arrived at the point where she enters upon the discharge of her duties in connection with the fur-seal fisheries patrol." On the contrary, Dutch Harbor (or Unalaska) is the particular point where a vessel does enter upon the discharge of these duties, and by no deduction can any other point be chosen the arrival at which would indicate the date upon which a vessel enters upon the performance of her duties. A vessel might leave Dutch Harbor and engage in a most active and energetic patrol in Bering Sea and not touch at the islands until considerably later.

I give the dates of arrival at Dutch Harbor for the past seven seasons, going back to 1900, which is the earliest season mentioned in Mr. Sims's report:

Vessel.	Date of arrival at Dutch Harbor.	Vessel.	Date of arrival at Dutch Harbor.
Season of 1900:		Season of 1903—Continued.	
Bear	May 23	Bear	July 7
Rush	June 4	McCulloch	July 16
Perry	June 17	Perry	July 28
McCulloch	June 14	Rush[1]	Aug. 6
Manning	June 15	Season of 1904:	
Season of 1901:		McCulloch	June 25
Manning	June 9	Perry	July 6
Grant	July 10	Thetis	July 14
Bear	July 27	Rush[1]	Aug. 15
Thetis	July 26	Season of 1905:	
Season of 1902:		Manning	June 13
Bear	May 30	Perry	June 16
Thetis	May 29	Bear	Do.
Manning	June 7	Season of 1906:	
Perry	July 19	Perry	June 27
McCulloch	July 26	Rush	June 28
Season of 1903:		Thetis	June 29
Thetis	June 5	McCulloch	July 21
Manning	June 10		

[1] Special cruise with court officials.

Not all the vessels mentioned in the foregoing table were on the fur-seal patrol, but all the revenue cutters that cruised in Alaskan waters are included, for the purpose of demonstrating conclusively that the cutters almost invariably "reach the sea," on whatever duty they may be engaged, considerably prior to August 1.

The following are the dates of arrival at the seal islands of the revenue cutters, whose particular duty was the fur-seal patrol, for the past seven seasons:

Season.	Vessel.	Arrival at seal islands.
1900	Rush	July 6
1901	Manning	June 30
1902	do	Do.
1903	Bear	July 10
1904	McCulloch	Aug. 1
1905	Manning	June 26
	Perry	July 3
1906	do	July 14

Even if we admit the untenable proposition that an arrival at the Pribilof Islands constitutes an arrival in Bering Sea, Mr. Sims's own statement as to the date on which the revenue cutter detailed for the seal patrol under ordinary circumstances reaches the sea is not borne out by the facts.

In my memorandum I stated, referring to certain recommendations he had made concerning the cruising of the revenue cutters in Bering Sea:

> Mr. Sims apparently does not take into consideration the necessity for vessels to coal, clean boilers, overhaul machinery, etc.

And his admission, "As to the matter of cleaning boilers, overhauling machinery, etc., I am not familiar," is clearly borne out by his statement—

> I have no information, therefore, as to whether during the winter months they (the revenue cutters) have the same opportunities as commercial steamers to overhaul their machinery and put themselves in shipshape for the ensuing season—

implying, as it apparently does, his belief that a steam vessel can leave Port Townsend, Wash., June 16, and return to that place September 24, having cruised in the meanwhile 11,000 miles, as the *Perry* did this last season, without cleaning boilers or overhauling machinery.

For some reason Mr. Sims does not take kindly to the suggestion made in my memorandum that the Revenue-Cutter Service is prepared at any time, at the request of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to place an armed guard on the Pribilof Islands that will insure against any raids on the rookeries—this in spite of the fact that he urgently recommends that the islands be supplied with cannon, one or more rapid-fire guns, and an increased supply of rifles and ammunition, to be operated presumably by the natives.

Mr. Sims, perhaps voicing the opinions of the agents, does not wish the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service to have any control whatever over the affairs on the seal islands; but, on the other hand, he is willing that the agents on the islands shall have more or less authority over the movements of the revenue cutters in Bering Sea.

The principal facts pertinent to this whole matter may be briefly summarized:

Mr. Sims visited Alaska the past season for the purpose of investigating the fur-seal fisheries, and for the furtherance of his object was accorded every courtesy by this department and by the officers of the revenue cutter *McCulloch*, on which vessel he made the trip to the seal islands. In his official report to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor he criticized severely the conduct of the revenue-cutter patrol for the enforcement of the fur-seal regulations. He says he was not sent to Alaska to investigate the Revenue-Cutter Service, and I wish to state as forcibly as possible that he did not investigate the revenue-cutter patrol, but the tenor of his report is such as to convey the impression to those not familiar with the situation that his strictures on the Revenue-Cutter Service are the result of careful investigation.

Mr. Sims is a man of legal attainments and presumably possessed of a judicial mind. He knows that exception must be taken to conclusions derived from an investigation based on ex parte testimony, yet in this matter his information was obtained from the agents on the islands and he does not pretend to have sought any information on the subject from the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service.

His animadversions on the revenue-cutter patrol for the past season have been found, after a careful investigation by this office, to be without basis in fact.

No complaint was ever made by the agents on the islands when they were under the direction of the Treasury Department, nor, in so far as I am aware, was any complaint made when Assistant Secretary Taylor, who had direct supervision of the Revenue-Cutter Service, visited the seal islands in the summer of 1905, nor had any complaints reached this department until Mr. Sims made his report.

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Upon learning the contents of Mr. Sims's report, I made every effort on the occasion of two personal visits to the Department of Commerce and Labor to have an interview with him in order that I might ascertain upon what information his comments on the patrol were based and lay before him the records of the ships on file in this office, so the matter might be investigated to the bottom. I have never seen him since his return from Alaska, although he has been in this city on at least two occasions since. Secretary Metcalf informed me that he had asked Mr. Sims to call upon me.

After reading the original report I thought there might have been inattention to duty on the part of the revenue cutters in Bering Sea during the past season, and I desired to and did investigate the matter thoroughly with the result that I found there was no basis for the charges made. If Mr. Sims had conferred with me and ascertained the truth relative to the seal patrol, he would not have fallen into the error of making statements that the facts do not substantiate.

The President desired a full investigation of this matter and I have endeavored earnestly to comply with his directions. It is certain that a fair and complete investigation can not be made unless the opportunity is given this department to question Mr. Sims, with such of his informants as he can produce, for the purpose of ascertaining the facts from which he arrives at his conclusions and statements.

When this department became aware of the nature of the report Capt. Dunwoody, the commanding officer of the *Perry*, was immediately ordered to Washington, and Mr. Sims was aware of Capt. Dunwoody's presence in this city. There are also officers of the *McCulloch*, now in the vicinity of Washington, who may be able to throw further light upon the subject of Mr. Sims's investigation.

At all events, it would seem no more than right and proper, after this department had afforded Mr. Sims special consideration for the conduct of his investigation, going so far as to order the *McCulloch* from San Francisco to the Pribilof Islands for his personal convenience, that, when about to submit a report discrediting the work of the Revenue-Cutter Service in connection with the fur-seal patrol and covering a period when the fur-seal fisheries were under the control of the Treasury, with which he has had no official connection, he should at least have conferred with the officers of this department relative to the facts in the case.

Mr. Sims has endeavored to impugn the revenue-cutter patrol, after spending 10 days in Bering Sea, including the time spent on board the *McCulloch*, and after a trip which he himself informed me, prior to his departure, was to be a flying one.

I feel that any further controversy in this matter with Mr. Sims will serve no good purpose, and I submit this rejoinder in reply to his last statement solely in order that it may be made a part of the official record of the case.

The Revenue-Cutter Service will welcome the most thorough investigation into the performance of its duties in Bering Sea that it is possible to make.

Respectfully submitted.

WORTH G. ROSS,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Chief of Division.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 10, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: You will remember that some time ago Mr. Edward W. Sims, in a report on matters connected with your department, took occasion to submit some strictures concerning the Revenue-Cutter Service without, in fact, investigating the matter commented upon by him. Capt. Dunwoody, of the revenue cutter *Perry*, whose official conduct was thus criticized by a subordinate of another department without investigation, was promptly ordered to Washington. The captain's report and the log of the revenue cutter clearly show that Mr. Sims must either have gone out of his way to submit the criticism, or that he relied upon hearsay evidence.

A copy of the captain's report and of the log of the revenue cutter have been submitted to you. I am further advised that you asked Mr. Sims to come to this department to explain. This he declined to do. The published report of Mr. Sims, at the bottom of page 21, says: "The vessel detailed on this duty does not, under ordinary circumstances, reach the sea until about the 1st of August." The log of the vessels that cruise the Bering Sea region show that in 1904 the first one arrived June 25 and the last July 12. In 1905 the first vessel arrived June 14 and the other two on June 16. In 1906 one vessel arrived June 27, one June 28, and the other June 29. If you desire a record of previous years before the criticism of the Department of Commerce and Labor I will be very glad to furnish it.

If Mr. Sims has evidence that the logs of the revenue cutters have been falsified, I wish you would have him furnish it. Some one is guilty of falsification, and if it be the revenue-cutter officers I propose to punish them. If it be Mr. Sims, the responsibility is not mine.

I base my request upon the principle which I think you will recognize as promptly as I, that clerks in the several departments should be reasonably cautious about calling in question the official integrity of officers of other departments.

In this instance Mr. Sims undertook to describe the course of a revenue cutter without so much as examining its log.

Yours, very truly,

L. M. SHAW.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

DECEMBER 15, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th instant with reference to that part of the report of Mr. Edwin W. Sims on the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries which relates to the patrol of Bering Sea by the Revenue-Cutter Service.

Under date of November 9, 1905, Mr. Sims, who was then Solicitor of the Department of Commerce and Labor, was placed in charge, subject to the supervision of the Secretary, of certain important matters affecting the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska. In order that the department might be placed in possession of full information concerning this subject, Mr. Sims was detailed by me on July 21, 1906, to make a thorough investigation of all matters relating to the condition of the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries on the Pribilof Islands and the waters of Alaska.

His report which was submitted under date of August 31, 1906, was the result of this visit; but in view of the exception taken to certain portions of his report in a memorandum submitted by the Revenue-Cutter Service, Mr. Sims has rendered a supplemental report in reply thereto, a copy of which is herewith inclosed for your information. I am confident that after a careful reading of the supplemental report and a consideration of the facts therein contained you will agree with me that it can not be successfully contended that the Revenue-Cutter Service has maintained an efficient patrol in the waters adjacent to the seal islands.

Mr. Sims in his supplemental report fully explains his former statement as to the dates on which the vessels arrived at the islands, or, as he said, "the sea," and I am of opinion that the mere misapplication of terms is hardly sufficient to discredit the substantial fact contained in the assertion.

I regret, Mr. Secretary, that you feel that the "official integrity" of the officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service has been called in question, and beg to assure you that it was not the intention of Mr. Sims to do so, and that such was not the case.

In conclusion, allow me to state that Mr. Sims is no longer connected with this department, being now United States attorney for the northern district of Illinois. During his connection with this department he won the confidence and respect of his superior officers and colleagues by the admirable manner in which he handled the varied important matters assigned to him, and his splendid services can not be lost sight of because a detail of his report has been called in question.

Very respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 10, 1907.

MY DEAR SIR: Sometime ago Mr. Edward W. Sims made a report to your department in which he submitted some very severe criticisms of the Revenue-Cutter Service. The report was so specific and so severe that the President felt justified in issuing a most severe reprimand to the Revenue-Cutter Service. Considerable correspondence has followed, which clearly shows Mr. Sims' statements to have been unwarranted, untrue, and made without any investigation whatever.

I am not prepared to criticize the motives of Mr. Sims. He probably relied upon representatives of your department at the Seal Islands. You will quite agree with me, however, that no report of the movement of a ship should be made without first having examined the ship's log. Either the officers of these revenue cutters are deliberately falsifying the record of their movements, or the representative of your department has deliberately and maliciously reported to Mr. Sims what is not true, or Mr. Sims has deliberately reported what he perhaps hoped was true but which was in fact false.

I do not feel like letting the matter drop. Several officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service should be dismissed in disgrace or some one else should at least be reprimanded

I submit herewith a rejoinder to the reply of Mr. Sims concerning his report, prepared by the Chief of the Revenue-Cutter Service.

Yours, very truly,

L. M. SHAW.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

[Copy.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 12, 1907.

MY DEAR SIR: I am just in receipt of your letter of the 10th instant about the report of Mr. Sims, in which he criticized the Revenue-Cutter Service. I know nothing personally of this matter. Of course nothing definite can be accomplished by prolonging the correspondence between the Revenue-Cutter Service and Mr. Sims.

I notice that Capt. Ross, the Chief of the Revenue-Cutter Service, suggests that an investigation of the whole matter be made, and this seems to me the best way of getting at something definite.

I therefore suggest that we ask the President to designate three men, preferably those who are familiar with Bering Sea and that entire locality, to act as a board, to which we may submit all the papers in this case. Whatever their finding may be we will submit to the President.

If, however, you prefer another plan, I would suggest that you name some one in the Treasury Department, and I will name some one in this department, and we will ask the Secretary of the Navy to designate some naval officer for the third member of the board, the naval officer to be one who is personally familiar with Alaska and Bering Sea, the report of this proposed board to be submitted to the President.

If neither of these plans appeals to you, will you suggest something?

My only desire is to have this matter of dispute referred to a competent, independent commission of three men who have absolutely no prejudice in the matter one way or the other, and abide by their decision.

The plans that I have outlined above would seem to be absolutely fair to all parties concerned. Will you please let me know which of the above-outlined plans you prefer, and if neither appeals to you, kindly suggest one in return.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

_____ _____,
Secretary.

Hon. LESLIE M. SHAW,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 2, 1907.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Replying to your letter of January 12, relative to the criticism of the Revenue-Cutter Service by a representative of your department, I quite agree with you that nothing can be accomplished by prolonging the correspondence.

You will remember a conversation with you and your predecessor preceding a Cabinet meeting, where the latter laid much stress upon the length of time consumed in coaling. I take the position that no representative of your department could wisely make a report upon the Revenue-Cutter Service without examining the logs of the several vessels, the movements of which are called in question.

I have had the record for seven years carefully examined, and these logs explain every delay exceeding the minimum required. In one instance an air pump became defective and inoperative and considerable time was consumed in its repair. In another instance a flange of the screw was broken off on a cake of ice. Your predecessor suggested that the representative of your department could ascertain from the records of the port when the vessels arrived and when they departed. Admit this, and it still remains true that the representative did not inquire concerning the reasons for the delay. The records of the *Perry*, which was detailed to this patrol for the season 1906, show that with the exception of a period of 10 days in making repairs to the broken air pump referred to, her average time in the port during the open sealing season was $2\frac{1}{2}$ working days. When it is remembered that about 80 tons of coal must be taken to the dock by the contracting company and loaded into the cutter by the crew, that is not a long period.

My argument against a report of a representative of your department would be as strong if the facts reported by him were true as it is when the facts reported by him are wholly untrue. I think he should be severely reprimanded for making a report criticizing any department without investigation, and whether his report is true or false makes little difference.

Our departments are intimately associated, and if it be deemed appropriate that the one can captiously call in question the other without investigation there will be no end of friction. No representative of your department has any business in this department, and if I were to stay here I would want that distinctly understood. I would dismiss a man instanter who would criticize your department with or without investigation, and most assuredly without investigation.

This will need no reply. It is a matter for you to determine.

Yours, very truly,

L. M. SHAW.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

PART V.—COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO RAID BY SEAL POACHERS.

[Telegram.]

SITKA, ALASKA, *August 6, 1906.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

Fur-seal rookeries, St. Paul Island, were raided by crews Japanese schooners July 16 and 17. About 200 seals were killed, but raiders were eventually repulsed as result courageous action Chief Agent Lembkey and Assistant Agent Judge at head of native guard. Five raiders were killed and 12 captured, 2 of latter being badly wounded. Three boats and some small arms also captured; force protecting rookeries suffered no casualties. The schooners were first observed on July 16 and were close to shore, easily within 3-mile limit. On this day boat's crew of six men, which had landed at Northeast Point, was surprised and captured by Agent Lembkey and native guards without casualty on either side On morning of July 17 two native watchmen shot and killed two and wounded one of an armed landing party Crews of schooner, under protection of dense fog, shot seals in water close to shore most of day. During this time shotgun firing, which could easily be heard from shore, was frequent. Unknown how many seals were killed in this manner, but number must have been considerable. On evening same day crews of at least three schooners made concerted raids on widely separated rookeries; raid on Seapadni rookery was repulsed by native guard after considerable firing. Raid on Northeast Point was partially successful. Owing to dense fog raiders there were not discovered until nearly 200 female seals had been killed.

This raid, which was apparently participated in by an entire ship's crew in five boats, was repulsed by Agents Lembkey, Judge, and native force only, and three of raiders were killed and five captured. Most of seals killed on shore by raiders were pregnant females with nursing young, few days old, which died of starvation. Large proportion of those kid in water also females in search of food for young. Foregoing facts reported to me on arrival at St. Paul Island of cutter *McCulloch*, July 20. From investigation made during six days' stay I believe Lembkey and Judge entitled to great credit for intelligent and courageous way they handled difficult situation. Some of raiders taken state they are from schooner *Toyai Maru No. 2*, and one of captured boats bore that name. Other prisoner states he is from schooner *Meimaru*. During time I was on island schooners were frequently sighted less than 3 miles from shore and native guard at all points have been doubled. *McCulloch* chased schooner sighted on morning July 27, but it escaped in fog. Another flying Japanese flag was sighted same day not far from islands, but was outside 3-mile limit. It is evident that at least 8 or 10 schooners, believed to be Japanese, are sailing in close proximity to islands. The 12 prisoners were taken on cutter *McCulloch* to Kodiak, and after hearing before commander were held jury and taken in charge by marshal. Agent Lembkey and four native witnesses accompany marshal to session of court at Valdez commencing August 6. Recommend that district attorney be directed to push cases at this term. I urgently recommend that at least one cutter in addition to *Perry*,

now there, be put on Bering Sea seal patrol, with instructions to cruise close to land, and that patrol be continued as late into October as possible. This vessel should stop at Valdez on way to islands and return native witnesses. I believe *Rush* now in Bering Sea and available. If Attorney General holds landing and killing of seals on island is piracy and that schooners implicated may be seized wherever found on high seas, cutter should be advised, as under present instructions I believe cutters will make no attempt to take raiding schooners unless found violating law within 3-mile limit, which is improbable. While men captured are violators of law, captains who sent them ashore are most guilty. Therefore think they should be taken and schooners seized if possible.

EDWIN W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

AUGUST 7, 1906—9 a. m.

[Telegram.]

VALDEZ, ALASKA, *August 9, 1906.*

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

District Judge Gunnison, in absence United States attorney, has to-day wired Attorney General requesting instructions as to advisability holding Japanese prisoners captured in island raids under indictment for piracy or merely for violation section 1956, Revised Statutes. In view of international questions which might arise should charges piracy be proven, Judge Gunnison requests me to ask department to confer with Department of Justice and carefully consider advisability indictment for piracy or for lesser offense. Grand jury waiting; request speedy reply.

WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA,
August 9, 1906.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the arrest and detention of five men who landed on this island from a Japanese sealing schooner August 5.

About 5 p. m., August 4, a small schooner flying the Japanese flag came within 400 yards of the village landing, dipped her flag three times, came about and laid a course for East rookery. Passing along the whole length of that rookery at a distance of half a mile, she soon disappeared around the east end of the island. Fearing a raid, I doubled the guard on East rookery and stationed men on Staraya Artel for the night. The next day, while scouting on the south side of the island, I found the schooner at anchor in Garden Cove about a half mile from the shore. She had, however, already been seen by some of the natives who had carried word back to the village. Maj. Clark immediately armed four men and sent them to the cove. These men I fell in with at the top of the hill which overlooks the cove and with them descended to the beach, where we found one man from the schooner, a Japanese. He was spreading out some clothes

on the ground. He spoke a few words of English, and from him I gathered that the captain of the schooner would soon come ashore. He then hailed the schooner, and a boat with two men put off from her and pulled to within easy talking distance of the shore. Some conversation followed in Japanese, and the boat went back to the ship to return almost immediately with four men, one of whom spoke English fairly well and claimed to be the captain of the schooner. On questioning him I ascertained that the schooner's name was the *Tokio Wah*, of Tokio, Japan, a sealer of 16 tons, carrying a crew of 16 men. She left Japan on June 3 on a sealing cruise and had on board 35 sealskins, 13 of which were taken around Copper Island and the balance in the vicinity of this island. When asked why he had landed on this island he replied "that he came in for water and ballast."

In view of the fact that this man had thoroughly reconnoitered East rookery the day before, and having done so anchored under cover of a heavy fog, in a more or less secluded place within a mile and a half of the rookery, I was convinced that to obtain water and ballast was not his real errand, but that he intended to lie quietly at anchor and a favorable opportunity presenting itself to send his boats around and raid East rookery. I therefore deemed it necessary in order to protect the rookeries to hold these men until they could be disposed of in such a manner that there would be no further danger from them. With this view Maj. Clark fully concurred. The five men were taken to the village and placed in a house under guard.

The next day (August 6) the men left on the schooner sailed her away after having landed and taking the boat in which the captured men came ashore. She has not been seen since.

The names of the men are as follows: Ihoo Muras, captain; T. Morata, T. Matsuo, J. Susuki, S. Sanagi.

Respectfully

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent in Charge St. George Island.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

VALDEZ, ALASKA, *August 18, 1906.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

Twelve Japanese indicted to-day for violation section 1956, Revised Statutes.

LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

AUGUST 20, 1906—8.35 A. M.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Oakland, Cal., August 28, 1906.

Hon. V. H. METCALF,
Secretary Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival to-day at this place, having left the seal islands on Tuesday, 14th August.

I beg to submit the following report concerning certain Japanese prisoners—five in number—taken on St. George Island on the 5th of the present month. These prisoners were kept under confinement on the island at great inconvenience. The company vessel arrived from San Francisco on the 9th August and went to St. Paul on the 10th. I took passage for the latter island with the purpose of securing the services of the revenue cutter *Perry* to remove the prisoners and transport them to some place where they might be tried or properly committed. On the 13th I was able to go on board the *Perry* and had a conference with her commander, Capt. Dunwoody, in company with Mr. Judge, the agent in charge of St. Paul Island.

Capt. Dunwoody felt that he could not leave Bering Sea, under his orders from the Treasury Department, before the 15th September, but consented to remove the prisoners to Unalaska and leave them with the deputy United States marshal at that place, provided the latter would receive them. The captain had already declined to do this on the application of Assistant Agent Chichester, on St. George Island, having called at that island after I left; but he reconsidered his action upon a somewhat different and fuller presentation of the matter.

The above arrangement effected on further conference with Agent Judge, I took passage on the cutter *Perry* for St. George Island. Arriving there on the morning of the 14th August, landing at the village was found impracticable, and signals were made to send the prisoners to Garden Cove, 3 miles distant, for which place we steamed. The prisoners were sent overland and were duly received on board the *Perry*. On the afternoon of that day she proceeded on her way to Unalaska, at which port she arrived about noon of the 15th. The deputy United States marshal at Unalaska, on presentation of the facts, took charge temporarily of the prisoners until such time as the cutter *Perry* should be able to leave the sea (about 15th September next), when she is to transport them to Seattle, to which port her orders direct that she return.

It is therefore expected that the cutter *Perry* will arrive at Seattle with the five Japanese prisoners soon after the 20th September proximo. Two native witnesses will also be brought by the cutter.

If it be competent for these cases to be heard by the United States court at Seattle, I believe the matter may soon be disposed of. In any event, some one in possession of the facts must present the information to the proper officer of the court, in whatever jurisdiction the cases may be properly heard. As I am the only one here personally familiar with the facts, I deem it my duty to acquaint the department with the circumstances as above set forth, and await its pleasure in the matter. It would be necessary to remain at Seattle about three weeks pending the arrival of the prisoners.

I understood that Mr. Chichester made a full report of the arrest of these Japanese and forwarded the same to the department.

I beg to hope that my action may meet the approval of the department, and await its further orders.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, August 28, 1906.

SIR: This letter will introduce to you Mr. Masanao Hanihara, second secretary of the Japanese embassy at Washington, who, on behalf of the Japanese Government, is visiting Alaska for the purpose of ascertaining the facts in connection with the recent raid on the seal fisheries.

You are directed to afford to Mr. Hanihara all the assistance possible, and to cooperate with him in his endeavors to ascertain the facts in the case.

Respectfully, LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of the Seal Fisheries, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

AUGUST 28, 1906.

SIR: I am advised by the State Department, under date of the 25th instant, that Mr. Masanao Hanihara, second secretary of the Japanese embassy at Washington, will, in pursuance to instructions from his Government, proceed to Alaska, with a view to ascertaining the facts in connection with the raid made by Japanese on the seal fisheries.

Mr. Hanihara will bear a letter of introduction to you from this department, and you are requested to show him every courtesy within your power and to cooperate with him in his endeavors to ascertain the facts.

In this connection you are authorized to disregard section 34 of the instructions issued to you under date of March 9, 1906, and to allow Mr. Hanihara to land on the islands.

Respectfully,

(Signed) LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of the Seal Fisheries, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

[Copy.]

[Telegram.

VALDEZ, ALASKA, *August 30, 1906.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

Six Japanese convicted yesterday of attempt to kill fur seals, St. Paul Island; five others pleaded guilty to killing seals same place; remaining prisoner tried, and cases before jury. Assistant Attorneys Hubbard and Clegg deserve commendation. Wire whether prisoners should be deported after expiration term imprisonment, and under what section Revised Statutes.

LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

The original of this telegram and a "memo" prepared by Mr. Sargent were sent to the files of the Bureau of Immigration November 15, 1906, at request of Mr. Murray.

H. N.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Washington, August 31, 1906.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries, Valdez, Alaska.

Your telegram of 30th instant. See volume 32, Statutes at Large, chapter 1012, page 1213. Report cases to Kazis Krauczunas, immigrant inspector in charge at Ketchikan, Alaska, for action in warrant proceedings, giving names of Japanese aliens and particulars as to entry.

Deportation to be deferred until term of imprisonment expires.

———— ————,
Acting Secretary.

[Telegram.]

VALDEZ, ALASKA, *September 1, 1906.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

Information just cabled here five additional Japanese and two witnesses from St. George Island, in custody United States marshal, en route to Valdez, indicates raid St. George rookeries; details probably to-morrow on arrival steamer *Dora.* Jury in case twelfth Japanese prisoner disagreed yesterday. New trial Monday; probably finished Wednesday, 5th instant. Important that *McCulloch* should not sail for westward until that date, as otherwise witnesses would be without transportation to islands and without funds. In my opinion, necessity additional patrol Bering Sea practically ceased.

LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1906—10.55 A. M.

[Telegram.]

VALDEZ, ALASKA, *September 2, 1906.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

My telegram yesterday steamer *Dora* arrived to-day with five Japanese prisoners and two native witnesses from St. George. Witnesses state that on August 4 a schooner sailed to within 400 yards of St. George village anchorage, dipped flag three times, and then sailed away. Next day she anchored 300 yards off Garden Cove, sending landing party ashore. Upon arrival Agent Chichester and guards, one Japanese was found ashore washing clothes at small stream. Soon afterwards the schooner's captain and three men came ashore and all were apprehended. No seals were killed on island by prisoners, no sealing paraphernalia in small boat, and no landing was made on a rookery. Report from Agent Chichester, received same steamer, gives additional information as follows: Upon first appearance of schooner guards on rookeries were increased in an anticipation of raid; that the schooner in question after dipping flag reconnoitered east rookery, and then anchored in heavy fog within mile and a half of same rookery; that arrest of party on shore was made to protect rookeries from molestation. Vessel is named *Tokoiwa Maru.* Prisoners and witnesses taken by *Perry* to Unalaska and thence by *Dora* to Valdez. District attorney's office advises me that facts as disclosed by statements of witnesses will not warrant prosecution, and requests that facts be reported to Attorney General and instructions wired regarding disposition prisoners and witnesses.

LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1906—9.15 A. M.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
SOLICITOR'S OFFICE,
Washington, September 4, 1906.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Care Hotel Crellin, Oakland, Cal.:

Japanese prisoners will not be brought to Seattle for trial. Proceed to Washington.

(Signed) LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Acting Secretary.

[Telegram.]

VALDEZ, ALASKA, *September 4, 1906.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

Twelfth Japanese prisoner pleaded guilty to-day. Shall I send native witnesses to island by mail boat which leaves 7th instant for Unalaska or turn them over to cutter? I leave here 6th instant for Washington.

LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1906—1.25 P. M.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, September 5, 1906.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries, Valdez, Alaska:

Use your judgment as to best means of returning witnesses to island.

———— ————,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, September 19, 1906.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Care United States Attorney, Chicago, Ill.:

Wire department sentence imposed upon 12 Japanese convicted at Valdez.

(Signed) LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Acting Secretary.

PART VI.—COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO CERTAIN COMPLAINTS BY HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C., November 9, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: The accompanying letters of Henry W. Elliott with reference to the recent raid of Japanese on the seal rookeries of the Pribilof Islands having been referred to me for an examination and report, I have the honor to transmit herewith a memorandum containing (*a*) brief of the correspondence involved, (*b*) comments of Mr. Walter I. Lembkey thereon.

Respectfully, CHARLES EARL, *Solicitor.*

MEMORANDUM—IN RE LETTERS OF HENRY W. ELLIOTT WITH REFERENCE TO RECENT JAPANESE RAID ON SEAL ROOKERIES OF PRIBILOF ISLANDS, (A) BRIEF OF CORRESPONDENCE, (B) COMMENTS OF MR. WALTER I. LEMBKEY, AGENT IN CHARGE, SEAL FISHERIES OF ALASKA.

(*a*) *Brief of correspondence.*

September 13, 1906: Acting Secretary Bacon, State Department, incloses copy of letter and newspaper clipping from Elliott to Secretary Loeb, dated September 4, 1906.

Letter.—Received August 8, 1906; smuggled off island (St. Paul) by officer of Revenue-Cutter Service; lessees censor all letters; Government agents forbidden to write; Japanese hunters squarely on

shore when shot and captured; raid planned in San Francisco and Victoria last spring; seals have dwindled so that when usual harem count was started last summer the natives got together and urged Messrs. Sims and Bowers not to do it; Sims stopped work; natives denounced work of Dr. Jordan, and said Elliott was right; do not know how they plucked up courage to do this unless swiftly vanishing herd made them desperate.

Clipping.—On July 15 gang of hunters at work on N. E. Point; watchmen reported schooner off western shore; all rushed to Cross Hill to get good view; spied small boat making shoreward; Government agents went to get rifles; crew landed at N. E. Point, where they were captured, and proved to be six Japs having branches of trees to kill seals with; schooner still hung about waiting for boat to return; next morning two schooners in sight; boat tried to make landing, 2 Japs killed and 1 wounded; at 8 in evening 8 boats from 3 schooners working for landing; 1 boat landed; left when firing commenced; got away with 80 skins; August 8, 1906, captured boat No. 2; got 3 men; killed 2 and wounded 1; third boat captured in evening; got 6 men, killed 1 and wounded 1; 2 of Japs killed buried on Hutchinson's hill; schooners reported around islands; Japs say there will be 30 schooners around islands in fall.

September 19, 1906: Acting Secretary Murray acknowledges letter of Acting Secretary Bacon.

September 20, 1906: Solicitor Earl forwards letter of Elliott and newspaper clipping to E. W. Sims, Chicago, Ill., for comments.

September 22, 1906: E. W. Sims comments on letter and press clipping as follows: Censorship of letters not true; agents not forbidden to write; letter might be sent off by revenue-cutter officer who chanced to land; information with reference to Japs captured and shot contained in dispatch to Secretary of Commerce and Labor, dated Sitka, Alaska, August 6, 1906. Heard it suggested at Seattle that raid was planned in San Francisco and Victoria last spring; too vague to refer to department; if Mr. Elliott has information that is authentic he should communicate it to department; did not stop count of harems; only recommended that little disturbance be made as possible, owing to disturbance by Japs and not wishing to drive seals into water while Japs were in vicinity; natives did not denounce work of Jordan nor say that Elliott was right.

September 29, 1906: Secretary requests that Mr. Elliott furnish information with reference to raid being planned in San Francisco and Victoria.

October 3, 1906: Mr. Elliott replies to Secretary's letter of September 29 as follows: Will give the department the information as soon as he has opportunity to visit Victoria and San Francisco; men engaged in this work are old and crafty; have been engaged in it since 1882–1884; until able to get written information from the hands of certain people associated with them no ends of justice or good for people will be gained by publishing information to agents of department; there is no one in department of Commerce and Labor who can use his data safely and effectively; for this reason did not recite details of information in his possession in letter to Secretary Loeb.

October 3, 1906: Mr. Elliott writes letter to President, inclosing copy of letter to Secretary of Commerce and Labor of October 3, 1906,

with reference to raid being planned in San Francisco and Victoria; says notorious Canadian fur-seal pirate has successfully passed himself off on department agents as an excellent and worthy citizen since 1892, which fact does not warrant him in placing his data in hands of said agents at this time; says he can place raid where it belongs if given opportunity; no inexperienced or ignorant person can properly and effectively do this.

(*b*) *Comments of Mr. Walter I. Lembkey, agent in charge seal fisheries of Alaska.*

The intimation expressed in the inclosed letters from Mr. Henry W. Elliott that he is conversant with facts showing that the recent Japanese raids on the seal islands were the result of a conspiracy on the part of Americans and Canadians in San Francisco and Victoria, respectively, which he is willing to disclose, provided he is given employment by the Government, makes it important that the President and the Secretary of Commerce and Labor be made acquainted with Mr. Elliott's record in connection with the seal question.

Since 1872 Mr. Elliott has been identified—officially and otherwise—with matters connected with the management of the seal islands, and since 1890 has displayed great activity in aggressively urging before Congress and the departments a policy adverse to the killing of seals on the islands.

When it is known, however, that since 1876 he has been an employee of the Alaska Commercial Co.; that during the preliminary negotiations with Great Britain on the Bering Sea question in 1890, into which Elliott forced himself, he was in secret communication with an agent of the British Government, as well as with its minister in Washington, and that when this Government refused to publish a report of his, written in 1890, to prevent Great Britain from knowing that it contained charges of mismanagement on the part of this Government, he himself published in the newspapers such a synopsis of his report as to form a basis for a request from the British Government for the report's production, it is believed that this Government will hesitate before again employing him in any capacity, and especially in connection with the sealing industry.

A brief résumé of facts in his official history is here given:

Henry W. Elliott was a protégé of Prof. Henry of the Smithsonian Institution. He was never on its pay roll, and therefore never formally connected with the Institution, notwithstanding his repeated claims to the contrary. (Hearing before Secretary of Treasury, Apr. 15, 1897.)

He was sent to the Pribilof Islands in 1872 as a special agent of the Treasury; he remained on the islands during the winter of 1872, and visited them again in 1874.

In 1876 he obtained employment with the Alaska Commercial Co., then the lessee of the sealing right, and visited the islands in that year as an employee of that company, and was continuously in its employ from 1876 until, at least, 1890, when that company's lease expired. (House Rept. No. 2027, 48th Cong., Mar. 28, 1884; see also hearing before Secretary of Treasury, Apr. 15, 1897.)

Mr. Elliott has denied this connection with the Alaska Commercial Co. at a time when its admission would have given proper color to

his attitude, as follows (quotation from hearing before Ways and Means Committee, Mar. 9 and 10, 1904, p. 13):

Mr. FAULKNER. * * * This was demonstrated by the experience of the Alaska Commercial Co., of which, I think, Mr. Elliott was an employee. Were you not an employee of that company, Mr. Elliott?

Mr. ELLIOTT. No, sir; I never was an employee of the Alaska Commercial Co.

Mr. FAULKNER. I beg your pardon.

Mr. ELLIOTT. I know it is a common misunderstanding. You do not want to misrepresent me; I am sure of that.

In 1890 the 20-year lease of the Alaska Commercial Co., by whom Elliott was employed, expired, and the new lease for 20 years was obtained by the North American Commercial Co., the present lessee, over the bid of the Alaska Commercial Co.

Through Elliott's personal efforts as a lobbyist an appropriation was secured from Congress for an investigation of seal life on the Pribilof Islands, under which Elliott was appointed a special agent of the Treasury and ordered to proceed to the seal islands to conduct the investigation. (Hearing before Secretary of Treasury, Apr. 15, 1897.)

Elliott visited the seal islands in 1890 as such agent. While there and through his influence and advice, the killing of seals by the North American Commercial Co., the successful rival of Elliott's company, was stopped on July 20, by order of the agent in charge, when it should have continued under the regulations until August 10. (Hearing before Ways and Means, Mar. 9 and 10, 1904, p. 70.)

The report made by Elliott as the result of his investigations of 1890 showed a great decrease in seal life since 1872. It ascribed the cause of this decrease during the period of the lease of the Alaska Commercial Co. (Elliott's company) to pelagic sealing, but held that the North American Commercial Co. had, by severe and wanton driving of seals to obtain the quota of 1890, injured the testes of the male seals and rendered them impotent. He therefore recommended a total cessation of killing on the islands at once, as imperative to the safety of the herd. (Oral argument of Hon. E. J. Phelps, vol. 15, Fur-Seal Arbitration, p. 265.)

He also recommended a modus vivendi with Great Britain, which would deprive the rival company of their right to take seals. (Hearing before Ways and Means, Mar. 9 and 10, 1904, p. 70.)

It must be remembered that at the time of Elliott's visit to the islands in 1890 great friction existed between this Government and Great Britain, growing out of the seizure of British schooners in Bering Sea by American revenue cutters, this Government advancing the claim that it had exclusive jurisdiction over Bering Sea east of the one hundred and eightieth meridian, and that it had the right therefore to prohibit British schooners from killing seals in these waters, which practice threatened the extermination of seal life on the islands. It was the purpose of the Government in sending Elliott to the islands in 1890 to obtain accurate data concerning seal life as it was found at that date, upon which this Government might base its case in the pending contention with the British.

Upon finding, however, that Elliott's report, instead of containing facts, was devoted mainly to the substantiation of a preconceived theory, and had in it, in addition, the charge of mismanagement and overdriving, which, if made public, would defeat the case of the

United States, the Secretary of the Treasury withheld publication of Elliott's report until he could have the charge of mismanagement proved or disapproved by the investigations of other agents. He accordingly sent other agents to the islands, all of whom found that there had been no mismanagement, and that Elliott's theory of overdriving and impotence of bulls was not only fallacious, but positively disproved by the existence of a surplus of active bulls. He therefore refused to make Elliott's report public, on the ground that "it was pervaded with a spirit of aggressive criticism instead of being a dispassionate statement of facts," and that "Mr. Elliott's views had been unduly influenced by his relations toward certain individuals," and that Mr. Elliott had "so used extracts from the records of the islands as to make them appear to substantiate his assertions that mismanagement on the part of the United States had played an important part in the diminution of seal life, which assertions are unsupported by the unabridged records." (Secretary of Treasury to Secretary of State, Feb. 23, 1893, Seal and Salmon Fisheries, vol. 2, p. 30.)

Elliott's report of 1890, therefore, was held in the private files of the Treasury Department, and great care was exercised on the part of this Government to prevent its contents being made public.

ELLIOTT'S CONNECTION WITH THE PARIS TRIBUNAL.

After the submission, in the fall of 1890, of his report, Elliott remained in Washington, aggressively urging his modus vivendi and the publication of his 1890 report.

It can not be overlooked that Mr. Elliott was an agent of the Treasury until April 25, 1891, under salary, and that while under such employment he was persistently furthering the interests of the Alaska Commercial Co., his former employer, by advocating the adoption of his modus vivendi, which prevented the North American Commercial Co. from taking sealskins.

Briefly, his efforts to secure the adoption of his modus vivendi were as follows:

He had repeated conferences with Mr. Blaine, then Secretary of State.

On September 7, 1891, at Mr. Blaine's house, he urged an agreement with Great Britain, which would include a cessation of land killing, at which time Mr. Blaine asked him to draft a modus vivendi with Great Britain, stopping land killing, which he did, and carried the draft to Mr. Blaine.

On December 17 he learned that Mr. Blaine's program did not include the stoppage of land killing, the object of Elliott's modus vivendi. He went to Mr. Blaine and protested "in a state of great excitement," and Mr. Blaine told him to "keep still."

On April 4, 1891, he learned that Mr. Blaine intended to allow the lessees to kill seals during the coming season instead of prohibiting the killing, as Elliott had urged, upon the receipt of which information, while still a special agent of the Government, Elliott published a letter in the New York Evening Post, under date of April 24, 1891, arraigning the policy of Mr. Blaine, for which Elliott was dismissed the service April 25, 1891.

(The above facts are taken from the hearing before the Secretary of the Treasury, Apr. 15, 1897, in MS.)

ELLIOTT'S CONNECTION WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

In March, 1891, while urging his modus vivendi at Mr. Blaine's house, Elliott showed Mr. Blaine certain letters to Elliott from Dr. Guillemard, of the British Museum, who, Elliott states, was in communication with Sir George Baden-Powell, one of the British Bering Sea commissioners, in which Elliott was assured by Guillemard that Lord Salisbury would accept his modus vivendi. This shows conclusively that Elliott, while a Government employee, had established a connection with British subjects in charge of the British case, and had carried on a correspondence with them, at least in relation to his modus vivendi, without knowledge of this Government. (Hearing before Secretary of Treasury, Apr. 15, 1897.)

Elliott further states that when he could get no satisfaction out of Mr. Blaine regarding the adoption of his modus vivendi he determined to find out if the "English Government had been doing what was right in the matter"—referring, probably, to his understanding with Guillemard. He accordingly, on March 17, 1891, while still a Government employee, visited the British legation in this city, saw the British minister, Sir Julian Pauncefote, and ascertained from him that Sir Julian had made a verbal tender of Elliott's modus vivendi to the British Government, and that Mr. Blaine had not proposed the modus to Sir Julian, but that Sir Julian had advanced it himself. How the British minister, if not informed by the State Department, could have obtained knowledge of Elliott's modus vivendi except through Elliott's efforts can not be explained. (Hearing before Secretary of Treasury, Apr. 15, 1897.)

PUBLICATION OF ELLIOTT'S REPORT FOR 1890.

For reasons before given, publication of Elliott's report was withheld by the Secretary of the Treasury. Elliott was greatly desirous of getting this report before the public. "I wanted this report of mine to be printed." "I had made up my mind and submitted my report, and I wanted others to review it." (Hearing before Secretary of Treasury, Apr. 15, 1897.)

As this report contained charges of mismanagement on the part of this Government, it is assured that no knowledge of its contents would be communicated by this Government to Great Britain. On the contrary, every effort was made by the agents and counsel of this Government to prevent knowledge of the report and of its contents being obtained by the British Government. But, in his correspondence, prior to March, 1891, with Dr. Guillemard, the advisor of Sir George Baden-Powell, the British Bering Sea commissioner, and on March 17, 1891, during his conference with Sir Julian Pauncefote, Elliott undoubtedly must have referred to his report, as it contained the modus vivendi, which he was urging.

Outside of this, however, there is abundant evidence to show that Elliott himself made public the contents of his report in such a way that the British Government was fully advised of its contents and used it to its advantage.

The history of that transaction may be stated briefly, as follows:

Elliott was dismissed the service April 25, 1891, for the publication of his letter to the New York Evening Post, appearing April 24, 1891.

On May 3, 1891, nine days after his dismissal from the Treasury Department, a dispatch from Washington, written by Elliott, appeared in the Cleveland Leader of May 4, 1891, containing the first chapter of his 1890 report, which was a synopsis of its entire contents.

This issue of the Cleveland Leader containing Elliott's report was transmitted to Lord Salisbury by Sir Julian Pauncefote on May 11, 1891. (Appendix to case of Great Britain, vol. 5, p. 73, Fur-Seal Arbitration.)

Having obtained through this means a knowledge of the report's contents, on April 4, 1893, Sir Charles Russell, of counsel for the British Government before the tribunal, submitted the following motion:

That the agent of the United States be called upon to produce the original or a certified copy of the report made by Henry W. Elliott on the subject of fur seals, pursuant to act of Congress of 1890.

Hon. E. J. Phelps, of counsel for the United States, replied:

The United States Government denies that Her Britannic Majesty's Government is entitled under the provisions of the treaty to any order by the tribunal for the production of the document specified in the motion, as a matter of right.

The United States Government, however, is willing to waive (so far as it is concerned) its right of objection, and to furnish to the agent of Her Majesty's Government a copy of the document referred to, for such use as evidence as the tribunal may deem proper to allow.

Not conceding, however, in so doing, that either party at this or any subsequent stage of the proceedings has a right to introduce any further evidence whatever upon any subject whatever connected with the controversy.

And further stipulating that if the document referred to in this motion shall be used in evidence at all, it shall be open to the use of both parties equally in all its points. (Vol. 1, Fur-Seal Arbitration, p. 18.)

Of this incident, Hon. John W. Foster, agent of the United States, makes the following report:

A recess was then taken to April 4, when the counsel for Great Britain submitted a motion that the agent of the United States be called upon to produce the report of Henry W. Elliott, made in 1890, to the Government of the United States. The report of Mr. Elliott had never been published by the Government, and had not been used or alluded to in the case of the United States; but, during the joint conference of the commissioners of the two Governments in Washington in February, 1893, it had, at the request of the British commissioners, been laid before them for such use as they saw fit to make of it.

The counsel for the United States denied that the British Government was entitled under the treaty to an order of the tribunal for the production of the document; but, waiving their right of objection, and not conceding that either party had the right to introduce any further evidence whatever, they offered to lay a copy of the report in question before the tribunal, upon condition that if it be used in evidence it should be open to the use of both parties equally. The report of Mr. Elliott was therefore produced, and it was printed by the British agent. (Vol. 1, Fur-Seal Arbitration, p. 8.)

It is a well-known fact that the strictures against the management on the islands, contained in Elliott's report, had great weight in defeating the contention of the United States that pelagic sealing was the main cause of the decline in seal life.

Briefly summed up, Mr. Elliott stands convicted of the following charges:

(1) He has held himself out as a scientist of the Smithsonian Institution, when he was never on its pay roll.

(2) Having been an agent of the Government, he transferred his services secretly to the Alaska Commercial Co. and acted as an

employee of that company while holding himself out to the public as a disinterested expert on seal life.

(3) In 1890, while an employee of the Alaska Commercial Co., he secured by lobbying a position as Government agent to visit the seal islands, and prepared a report ostensibly embodying his conclusions as a scientist, but actually in the interest of the Alaska Commercial Co.

(4) His persistent urging of a modus vivendi with Great Britain, the object of which was to stop killing on the islands, while publicly held by him to be a measure necessary for the preservation of seal life, was actually suggested by his secret connection with the Alaska Commercial Co. He stands, therefore, convicted of tricking the Government into taking action which was intended by Elliott solely to further private ends.

(5) Having prepared a false, erroneous, and untruthful report, which this Government refused to publish, by reason of its injurious bearing upon the pending seal controversy, after such refusal he placed himself in secret communication with an agent of this Government's adversary in the seal arbitration, as well as with its minister in Washington, thereby betraying this Government's interests to its great disadvantage, while yet an officer of this Government.

(6) Having violated the confidence of this Government by arraigning in the public press its secret policy at the most critical period of the sealing negotiations, he was dismissed the service for this grave infraction of duty. Whereupon, to force this Government's hand, he published in the newspapers the contents of his misleading and biased report, thereby accomplishing the object of its being made public, and, at the same time, knowingly, giving to this Government's adversary an advantage which practically defeated its case before the Paris tribunal.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, September 20, 1906.

Hon. EDWIN W. SIMS,
United States Attorney, Chicago, Ill.

SIR: By direction of the Acting Secretary I am inclosing herewith, for your information, copy of a letter addressed to the secretary to the President by Henry W. Elliott, of Lakewood, Ohio, also copy of a newspaper clipping embodying information relating to the Japanese raid on the seal rookeries at St. Paul Island, communicated to him by an employee of the lessees of the island. The copies inclosed were forwarded to this department by the Secretary of State under date of September 13, 1906.

As soon as you have finished with the inclosures please return them to this office.

Very respectfully, ——— ———,
Solicitor.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 13, 1906.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose for your information a copy of a letter addressed to the secretary to the President by H. W. Elliott, of Lakewood, Ohio, inclosing a newspaper clipping embodying information relating to the Japanese raid on the seal rookeries at St. Paul Island, communicated to him by an employee of the lessees of the island.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT BACON,
Acting Secretary.

LAKEWOOD, OHIO, *September 4, 1906.*

DEAR MR. LOEB: I received yesterday a letter written to me by an employee of the lessees on St. Paul Island, dated August 8, 1906. This letter was smuggled off the island by the hand of some officer of the revenue marine; the lessees censor all letters, and the Government agents are forbidden to write.

I have made one extract from this letter anent the Japanese raid and killing, which took place on St. Paul, July 17 last, and gave it to the local paper, as per inclosed clipping. It declares very plainly that the Japanese hunters were squarely on shore when shot and captured.

But the writer of this letter to me does not know that this sudden descent of those Japanese hunters last July and their promise to be about the islands all during the fall, 30 vessels strong, was planned in San Francisco and Victoria last spring.

He tells me that the seals have dwindled so that when the usual harem count was started last summer the natives all got together and urged Mr. Sims and United States Fish Commissioner Bowers not to do it—that there were so few it was wrong to disturb them. Mr. Sims was so impressed by them that he stopped the work. The natives then denounced the work of Dr. Jordan on the islands, and told Sims and Bowers that I was right.

How they plucked up courage to do this I do not know, unless the sight of that swiftly vanishing seal herd made them desperate.

Very sincerely, yours,

HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

WM. LOEB, Jr.,
Secretary to the President,
Oyster Bay, L. I.

[Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 1906.]

TELLS OF BATTLE IN SEAL COUNTRY—LETTER REACHES CLEVELAND WITH ACCOUNT OF KILLING OF JAP HUNTERS—WRITER SAYS 30 SCHOONERS WILL SCOUR ROOKERIES THIS FALL.

A private letter received yesterday in this city from St. Paul Island, Bering Sea, dated August 8, 1906, gives some additional information not hitherto published in regard to the raid on that island July 16. The writer says, anent the raid and killing of Japanese hunters:

"On the 15th ultimo a gang of sealers went to Northeast Point to seal as usual; we killed seals at 4 o'clock next morning, and completed our work at 10 o'clock. As we were ready to start home again a watchman reported a sealing schooner about 3 miles off the western shore at Northeast Point. We all rushed for Cross Hill, where we could get a good view of the schooner.

"When we got there we spied a small boat under a sail making shoreward. Two Government agents who were with us went back to the watchhouse to get rifles, and started with a gang of natives for the rookeries. One went with two natives and guns, and three more with seal clubs, to the Northeast Point rookery. The other went with the same number of men to the West Side rookery, where the boat seemed to try to land, but instead this boat landed at the Northeast Point rookery, where its crew was captured as it landed with clubs to kill seals.

"As they landed they were ordered to throw up their hands, which they did, and they were captured unhurt; they proved to be six Japs, who came to kill seals. They had branches of trees for clubs.

"In the afternoon we started home, marching our prisoners. We left men to guard the rookeries, and one Government agent. The schooner was still hanging about the point waiting for the boat to return.

"The next morning the watchman from the Point telephoned to the village that a couple of schooners were in sight, and that a boat was trying to make a landing. A little later they telephoned for more guns and men, and that two Japs were killed and one wounded, and that doctors were needed. This was 9 o'clock a. m. In the evening, about 8 o'clock, eight boats from three schooners were working for the landing; one of the boats succeeded in landing under cover of the fog under a little cliff at Northeast Point rookery, where they killed about 160 female seals. When the firing commenced to drive off the other boats, their men took to their boats, and got away with about 80 skins.

"This morning we captured boat No. 2; we got three men in it, killed two and wounded one. The third boat was captured in the evening. We got six men, killed one and wounded one. The rest of the boats were driven back to their schooners. Two of the Japs that were killed we buried on Hutchinsons Hill. Two days ago a schooner was around Northeast Point; it had three boats out sealing. To-day one is reported around Otter Island. The Japs say that there will be 30 schooners around this island during the fall."

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS,
826–833 FEDERAL BUILDING,
Chicago, September 22, 1906.

Hon. CHARLES EARL,
Solicitor's Office, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter, dated September 20, 1906, inclosing for my information a copy of a letter addressed to the secretary of the President by Henry W. Elliott, of Lakewood, Ohio, and also a copy of a newspaper clipping embodying information relating to the Japanese raid on the seal rookeries on St. Paul Island, communicated to him by an employee of the lessees of the island.

Mr. Elliott's statement in his letter to Mr. Loeb that "the lessees censor all letters and the Government agents are forbidden to write," is not true. So far as I know the lessees do not censor any letters nor are the Government agents forbidden to write. There is nothing to prevent anyone on the island writing a letter and delivering it to some officer of a revenue cutter which chanced to land. The information that the Japanese hunters were on shore when shot and captured was contained in my dispatch to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, dated Sitka, Alaska, August 6, 1906.

If Mr. Elliott has any authentic and reliable information to the effect that the raids on the islands were planned in San Francisco and

Victoria last spring, it would be of value to the department. I heard this suggested at Seattle and at San Francisco, but it seemed to be so vague and indefinite and to have so little foundation that I made no statement or recommendation with reference to it to the department.

I did not stop the count of the harems while on the island. The only recommendation made by me with reference to the count was that in making it the rookeries be disturbed as little as possible. I believed this particularly advisable during the past season, owing to the fact that the rookeries have been more or less disturbed by the Japanese raids, and for the further reason that it was undesirable to drive any seals off into the water at a time when several Japanese schooners were known to be engaged in pelagic sealing close to the islands.

The natives did not denounce the work of Dr. Jordan on the islands, nor did they tell me that Mr. Elliott was right.

Having noted the information in the inclosures, they are herewith returned, as requested by you.

Very respectfully, EDWIN W. SIMS.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1906.

SIR: A copy of your letter of the 4th instant, addressed to the secretary to the President, to which was attached a copy of a clipping from the Cleveland Plain Dealer of September 4, 1906, embodying information relating to the recent raid by Japanese poachers on the fur-seal rookeries on St. Paul Island, has been referred to this department.

The department notes with interest that portion of your letter which states that "this sudden descent of those Japanese hunters last July, and their promise to be about the islands all during the fall, 30 vessels strong, was planned in San Francisco and Victoria last spring," and will appreciate it if you will furnish any information which you have to the effect that this raid was planned in San Francisco and Victoria.

Respectfully,

_____ _____,
Secretary.

Mr. HENRY W. ELLIOTT,
17 Grace Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio.

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17 GRACE AVENUE,
Lakewood, Ohio, October 3, 1906.

SIR: In reply to the request which you make in your letter addressed to me under date of September 29, 1906, and which I have just received, I hasten to say that I will gladly give the department that information as soon as I have the opportunity to visit Victoria and San Francisco.

Those men who have planned that raid are old in this illicit business; they have employed Japanese hunters in doing this work on the Pribylov Islands ever since 1882–1884; they are crafty and wary, and until I am able to get certain written statements from the hands of certain persons associated with them no end of justice or good for the public interests will be secured by publishing to your agents those facts bearing on them now in my possession.

There is no one in the Department of Commerce and Labor who has sufficient knowledge of these men and their operations to safely and effectively use my data. For this reason I did not recite those details of that warrant which I hold in my letter to the secretary of the President, and to which you refer.

Respectfully, HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

Hon. V. H. METCALF,
Secretary, Department Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

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17 GRACE AVENUE,
Lakewood, Ohio, October 3, 1906.

To the PRESIDENT:

I inclose a copy of my letter to Secretary Metcalf. He asks me to give him the information now in my possession, which warrants my informing you on the 4th ultimo that the recent Japanese raid on the Pribylov Islands "was planned in Victoria and San Francisco last spring."

The fact that a notorious Canadian fur-seal pirate has successfully passed himself off upon the agents of the Department of State and of Commerce and Labor, as an excellent and worthy American citizen from 1892 down to October, 1905, does not warrant me in putting the data which I hold into such hands at this hour.

I can place that raid of last July where it belongs if I have the opportunity, but no ignorant or inexperienced investigator can properly and effectively handle my data.

I am, with high regard,
Your obedient servant, HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

The PRESIDENT,
White House, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 18, 1906.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the letter of Mr. H. W. Elliott, dated the 10th instant, addressed to the Secretary to the President, wherein certain criticisms are made on the report of Hon. E. W. Sims, former solicitor of this department, on the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries.

Mr. Elliott is in error in asserting that Mr. Sims was not fully informed as to the method and effect of marking young seals to reserve them for breeding purposes. The term "branding" is a technical one used on the seal islands, and refers to the marking of seals by the use of hot irons, shears, or other means. As this term is used by the agents in their reports in referring to the marking of seals by sheep shears, it would seem that Mr. Sims was perfectly justified in its use in the same connection.

It is a fact that hot irons were used to mark young male seals in 1904, and that sheep shears were substituted for this purpose in 1905 and 1906. Of this Mr. Sims, as well as the department, was fully

advised. The use of the former was discontinued for the reason that the hot-iron brand involved the burning of the flesh on the seal's head, which might easily have a deleterious effect on the animal's brain, and lays the practice open to a charge of inhumanity. The use of shears, on the other hand, accomplishes the object of rendering the animal immune from slaughter during the killing season, while the method is painless and involves no likelihood of future injury to the seal.

Mr. Elliott's statement that these "branded" seals are all killed in the fall for food is wholly erroneous. In 1904, when it was found that it was necessary to take precautions to prevent the subsequent slaughter of these reserved animals, measures were adopted by the agents to that end, by limiting the fall killings to those seals having skins weighing less than 6 pounds. The skins of all 3-year-olds, and most of the 2-year-olds, weigh more than this. Furthermore, the 3-year-olds, as a class, do not frequent the hauling grounds in the fall, but haul among the cows, where they can not be driven. These measures have been found to be effective, as shown by the increasing number of young seals, too large for killing, in the drives each spring.

From the foregoing statements it can be seen that Mr. Sims's reference to "branded" seals was not a "remarkable and serious error," as claimed by Mr. Elliott; that the precautions taken on the islands are adequate to prevent the killing of seals reserved by branding; and that Mr. Sims, on his visit to the islands last summer, was neither imposed upon nor misunderstood the exact situation.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Alaskan Seal Fisheries.

Hon. L. O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, December 10, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: The President directs me to refer to you, for your consideration, the inclosed communication from Prof. Henry W. Elliott.

Very truly, yours,

WM. LOEB, JR.,
Secretary to the President.

Hon. V. H. METCALF,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

[Inclosure.]

1232 FOURTEENTH STREET NW.,
Washington, D. C., December 9, 1906.

DEAR MR. LOEB: I am greatly pleased with the special reference to the fur seals in the President's message.

I saw the Sims report yesterday for the first time, and I am moved to quietly yet pointedly draw the attention of the President to a remarkable and serious error of statement made in it by its author, to wit:

On page 28 Mr. Sims says that "2,000 choice 2 and 3 year old males were selected, branded, and dismissed from the herd for breeding purposes," i. e., saved then and thereafter from slaughter by the lessees. Again, on page 29, he says, "the experience of recent years in annually branding 2,000 young male seals," etc.

This deliberate statement of Mr. Sims is not true. These seals have not been branded; they have been sheared. These sheared marks have been put upon those seals in June and July, and they have entirely disappeared from the bodies of those seals by the middle or end of September following, since all fur seals completely shed and then renew their overhair during August and September, annually.

Now please observe the significance of what follows: In October and November every one of these spared and sheared seals of June and July which hauls out on St. George and St. Paul Islands is killed as a "food seal," and its skin goes into the hands of the lessees.

The official proof of this serious charge you will find unwittingly furnished by the seal-island agents themselves; see pages 8, 64, 65 of Senate Document No. 98, Fifty-ninth Congress, first session, and you will find it officially confessed that the use of the branding irons was partly discontinued in 1904 and wholly discontinued in 1905. On page 86 you will find the official declaration that these seals sheared in June and July are killed as "food seals" in October and November. and that the sheared mark has entirely gone.

By this improper method of procedure, the President will observe that the lessees annually nullify that pledge given by the Department of Commerce and Labor to the Senatorial Committee, to the Ways and Means Committee of the House, and to myself, March 9–10, 1904.

Perhaps Mr. Sims has been imposed upon, but nevertheless he does not understand the real status of the work done on the islands; hence all of his labored conclusions, based upon this fictitious reservation of young male life, is utterly idle and unfounded.

When we have mercifully, humanely, and sensibly put the land and sea butchers of our fur-seal life out of business, by killing that life, down to the small nucleus sufficient alone to preserve the species, then we shall have no difficulty in getting a proper and adequate agreement with Canada for a full restoration and preservation of this most anomalous and valuable fur-bearing life.

Faithfully, yours,

HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

WM. LOEB, JR.,
Secretary to the President.

THE FUR-SEAL HERD—PROF. H. W. ELLIOTT APPROVES PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION—PRONOUNCES THE IDEA OF BRANDING THE SEALS IDLE AND IMPRACTICABLE.

The President in his message just submitted to Congress gives the question of protection and preservation of our Alaskan fur-seal herd much attention and urges action by Congress to supplement the efforts of the executive departments. To show the desperate condition of the herd he calls the attention of Congress to the report of E. W. Sims, which was made to the Department of Commerce and Labor last August and only made public yesterday.

A representative of The Star asked Prof. Henry W. Elliott this morning for an expression of opinion as to the recommendation of the President's message and the value of the Sims report. Mr. Elliott said:

"The recommendation of the President that Congress supplement his efforts by the passage of an act which will enable him to put the land and sea butchers of this fur-seal herd out of business at once is a humane, merciful, and sensible one. Such an act should have been passed 10 years ago, and would have been had it not been for the erroneous and mistaken opposition of Richard Olney to the plan. Judge Gresham's death, in June, 1885, prevented the Dingley seal bill from receiving the support of the State Department in March, 1896, after it had passed the House by a unanimous vote and under full debate. It was defeated in the Senate by Secretary Olney, who assured Senator Frye, who had the bill in charge, that he had the fur-seal question well in hand and the passage of the bill would greatly embarrass, if not defeat, his negotiations.

"The outcome of Olney's work was the abortive and erroneous finding of the Jordan-Thompson commission, which simply made a bad matter worse. It put the Canadians in the saddle, and they have been there ever since.

"Now, as to Mr. Sims's report, which I have seen to-day for the first time, I have this to say: He is entirely right in saying that the fur-seal herd is in a desperate condition and on the verge of total extermination within a year or two from date. This is what I predicted in 1902 before the Ways and Means Committee, to which I exhibited a table of diminution showing that by the close of the season of 1907 the breeding male life on the islands would be extinct. I reenforced these figures again before the same committee in March, 1904.

"But Mr. Sims is utterly wrong in saying that land killing has had no injurious effect on the herd, either to decrease the birth rate or destroy it. He ignores without warrant the testimony of a trusted Russian agent of the old Russian-American Co., who spent the season of 1819 on the Prilbylov Islands. This agent in 1820 declared in a report to the company that unless the close killing of the young male seals was discontinued on land the species itself would become extinct. The company ignored his advice. What followed? In 1834 the herd was on the verge of total destruction, and all killing was suspended in 1835 by the Russians, and so suspended practically until 1844, then gradually resumed under better care and annually increased so by 1857 the catch of 75,000 to 80,000 young male seals was annually taken up to 1867 without the least injury to the herd or its increase.

"If excessive land killing of the young males could destroy this herd in 1819–1834, why has it ceased to be a potent factor of harm? There was no pelagic sealing even dreamed of in those days or even practiced until 1886 so as to be at all significant. Now, when you add to the injurious work of land killing that of the pelagic butcher, you have simply augmented and hastened the work of destruction. This herd of ours has been under the two fires ever since 1886, with the exception of that brief respite from excessive land killing which I gave it through my modus vivendi of 1891–1893. I wanted to make it seven years, but natural science was prostituted at Paris in 1893, and again in 1896–97, and the butchers on the islands were given full swing again.

"Mr. Sims has much to say of what he saw during the short week of his experience on the islands with regard to the Japanese raid made then and there. He does not seem to know that these Japanese hunters have been regularly hired and set upon this work by Canadian and American managers since 1882–83. I hold in my hands the indisputable proof of that fact. The fact that these managers, Canadian and American, were careless this summer is the only reason why they were detected and captured as they were.

"Again, Mr. Sims makes the error of saying that these seals can be branded, and so branded 'would reduce the seals to its possession.' Why, only think of it! A pelagic hunter would drive his spear and his skinning knife through any brand mark that Mr. Sims could put on a fur seal's hide so thoroughly and so effectively that it would disappear at once from that hide, and as for 'metal tags,' which he wants attached with wire to the bodies of the seals, why the seals would so work and worry under them that either the tags would be worn off or the seals themselves would die from their efforts. He does not understand the strange, nervous wildness of the fur seal. He has seen hair seals and sea lions put under restraint by man, but he never has seen and never will see a fur seal so controlled and restrained by man.

"Such official errors of statement as these destroyed our case at Paris in 1893. They again reappear in the Jordan-Thompson investigations and conclusions of 1896–97, and again we go down to defeat in the Jordan-Thompson agreement of November 17, 1897.

"Fortunately the President has ignored this branding and metal-tag nonsense which Mr. Sims has so seriously advised, and the President has been able to see that unless we can get an agreement to stop pelagic sealing it is only merciful and far more humane for us to kill the female fur seals at once, and by so doing instantly end this scandalous business of breeding them for a band of alien butchers to alone inhumanely and indecently slaughter into an indefinite future."

PART VII.—COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO SUPPLIES AND ACCOUNTS.

MARCH 9, 1906.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: Authority is hereby given for the travel of yourself and Assistant Agent James Judge from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, in the spring of 1906, and of yourself and either Assistant Agent Clark or Chichester from the Pribilof Islands to Washington, D. C., in the fall of 1906, such travel to be by the most direct routes. If excess baggage is necessary for the travel above authorized, a charge therefore may be included in the traveling expense accounts of yourself and the assistant agents, the sum so included not to exceed $40 for each agent in any one trip.

The inclusion, in the expense accounts of yourself and the assistant agents, of charges for board and lodging at San Francisco at a rate not to exceed $5 per diem, during such reasonable time as may be necessary for the transaction of official business pending your departure for Alaska, is hereby authorized; but your arrival on the Pacific coast should be so timed as to relieve the department of any charges for detention there for a longer period than required by the exigencies of business. This injunction applies as well to the stay on the Pacific coast of yourself and the assistant agents upon your return from Alaska en route to the department.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF, *Secretary.*

MARCH 9, 1906.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in the letter dated February 20, 1906, from the North American Commercial Co., the collectors of customs at San Francisco and Unalaska have been requested to permit the company named to ship from either of said ports to the Pribilof Islands during the current fiscal year liquors, for medicinal purposes only, and arms and ammunition, as follows:

St. Paul Island (population, 163 natives, 11 whites).

4 barrels beer.
2 cases whisky.
6 kegs whisky, 5 gallons each.
1 keg brandy, 5 gallons.
2 kegs rum, 5 gallons each.
1 case gin.
4 cases claret.
2 cases still wine.
2 kegs port wine, 5 gallons each.
2 kegs sherry wine, 5 gallons each.
20 gallons alcohol.
1 case champagne.
250 pounds powder.
1 No. 16 Stevens rifle, .22 caliber.
2 30–30 Winchester rifles.
300 soft-nosed Winchester cartridges.
3 Sharps rifles, .22 caliber, single fire.
5,000 Winchester cartridges, .22 short.
2,000 Winchester cartridges, .22 long.
1 Savage rifle, .22 caliber.

St. George Island (population, 91 natives, 8 whites).

3 barrels beer.
2 kegs whisky, 5 gallons each.
1 case whisky.
2 kegs brandy, 5 gallons each.
3 cases still wine.
1 case gin.
1 keg port wine, 5 gallons.
1 keg sherry wine, 5 gallons.
5 gallons alcohol.
125 pounds powder.
10,000 Winchester cartridges, .22 short.

In respect to the liquors above mentioned the company has been informed that the arbitrary designation of barrels, cases, kegs, etc., may be disregarded, and the liquors shipped in packages different from those mentioned, provided the whole amount of each kind of liquor shipped does not exceed the amount specified in the foregoing list.

Respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, *April 5, 1906.*

Mr. EDWIN W. SIMS,
Solicitor, Department Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith my account for salary for the month of March, 1906, amounting to $243.34.

I would thank you to send check in settlement to me at 1167 Neil Avenue, this city.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, April 9, 1906.

The SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have to report that the following supplies are required for use in the Government houses on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska:

St. Paul.

1 carpet (room 15 feet by 31 feet).
4 dozen towels.
8 roller shades for windows.
500 ball cartridges, caliber .30, for Krag-Jorgensen rifles.
1 small movable cannon.

St. George.

1 carpet (room 15 feet by 31 feet).
4 dozen towels.
8 roller shades for windows.
1 Remington typewriter.
500 ball cartridges, caliber .30, for Krag-Jorgensen rifles.
1 small movable cannon.

The carpet is designed for use in the large room in each of the houses mentioned, to replace that now on the floors, which is worn out. These rooms, in addition to use by the regular occupants, are visited at least once a week by almost the entire population of the islands to obtain orders for supplies and to transact other official business.

The supply of towels now on the islands is practically exhausted, not having been replenished for years.

The window shades are intended to replace those now in use, which, by reason of long usage, are practically unserviceable.

The Remington typewriter is absolutely necessary for the proper transaction of official business on St. George Island. The machine now on St. George is my own property and was used by me on St. Paul. Upon the receipt from the department of a new typewriting machine for St. Paul, I transferred the old machine to St. George, where it is now in use. It is probably 14 years old, and so nearly a complete wreck as to require very careful manipulation to get any results from its use. The work done by it is of so poor a quality as to render handwriting faster and more legible. The replacing of this old machine with a new Remington is urgently requested.

The ball cartridges are necessary for defense of the rookeries. Those requested are necessary to replenish the supply of ammunition on the islands, a portion of which, probably, has been expended for judicious target practice during the winter.

The small movable cannon, one for each island, have been requested heretofore. Their presence on the islands is a necessity, both in the event of a raid on the rookeries by poachers and for signaling purposes.

In the absence of a patrol vessel, it is entirely feasible for a schooner to lie within a half mile of the islands, taking seals, while the shore guard is powerless to reach the offender. The provision of a portable cannon on each island, having a range of several miles, would meet the contingency.

It was reported in the newspapers that Alex. McLean, the master of the poaching schooner *Acapulca*, which took seals close to the islands all last summer in open sight of land, called for volunteers to land and raid the rookeries, and that none of his crew were willing to take the risk. The possession of a serviceable fieldpiece on each island would have a deterrent influence on persons of this character which would be of great value in keeping the vicinity of the islands free from poachers.

Then, again, a cannon is constantly necessary on the islands to signal vessels to an anchorage in the thick fog that is usually present in summer. A tiny brass gun, of the style used for signaling on schooners, heretofore has been borrowed from the lessee to use in cases where a Government boat is seeking the anchorage. It is manifestly better, however, for the Government to supply a necessary article, of which it has an abundance, than to require its representatives to borrow the same when its use becomes necessary for Government purposes.

I have also to state that, in view of anticipated negotiations, photographs of the breeding rookeries this summer, showing their exact condition at the height of the season, will probably be required and will be of great value as evidence. To obtain such photographs, the following supplies will be necessary:

St. George.

10 dozen plates, 8 by 10.
2 gross Velox paper, 8 by 10.
1 ruby lantern.
1 camera spirit level.
6 Carlton plate holders, 8 by 10.
Developer and hypo. for 10 dozen plates.
Developer and hypo. for Velox paper (2 gross, 8 by 10).

St. Paul.

10 rolls films, 5 by 4, 12 exposures each, for No. 4 Kodak.
10 dozen plates, 8 by 10.
6 Carlton plate holders, 8 by 10.
1 camera spirit level.
2 ruby lanterns.
2 gross Velox paper, 4 by 5.
2 gross Velox paper, 8 by 10.
Developing powders and hypo. for 10 rolls films.
Developer and hypo. for 10 dozen plates, 8 by 10.
Developer and hypo. for 2 gross Velox, 4 by 5, and 2 gross Velox, 8 by 10.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

I have gone carefully over the above, and in my opinion the supplies requested are necessary.

E. W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

MAY 16, 1906.

The SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: Referring to my letter of the 9th instant, wherein I reported that certain supplies were required for the Government houses on St. George and St. Paul Islands, Alaska, I have now to state that the following articles are necessary, in addition to those already mentioned, for the proper conduct of business at the places stated: Two field glasses, one for each island.

These glasses, one for each island, are required for use of the armed watchmen stationed at the watch houses remote from the villages to determine the class, and, if possible, the nationality of approaching vessels, and report the information by telephone to the village, from which aid, if required, may be sent.

Glasses for use of the watchmen have been long required. The Government agents use glasses of their own. The lessee supplies its agents with glasses. The watchmen have none, and their reports, made from observations with the naked eye, are so often erroneous as to cast doubt upon their statements whenever made. A pair of good glasses in each watch house is a vital necessity, and their provision by the department is respectfully but urgently requested.

I have just received word from Agent Judge to the effect that both houses are much in need of wall paper and swiss for window curtains. I had overlooked this matter in my letter of the 9th instant, but now desire to indorse Mr. Judge's statement, and request that authority be given me to purchase, in San Francisco, through the North American Commercial Co., 25 double bolts of wall paper, with border, and one bolt of swiss muslin for each island.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Approved.

E. W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, April 19, 1906.

The SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have respectfully to request that the island of St. Paul, Alaska, be supplied with a marine gasoline engine of about 10 horsepower, for installation in a large rowboat now on the island, thereby converting the boat into a gasoline launch.

The work of the Government agents on the seal islands has been greatly handicapped for lack of means in transporting themselves, the natives, and paraphernalia from the village to the various rookeries in performing the work necessary during the sealing season. Dependence has had to be placed solely on the endurance of the men or the kindness of the lessee to enable laborers, branding gear, and other impedimenta to be moved from one place to another.

In addition, Otter and Walrus Islands, lying, respectively, about 7 and 14 miles from the village in the open sea, both have seals on them during the summer. In the investigation of seal life by the agents it is necessary that these places should be visited each summer and the conditions thereon noted. In view of the risk attendant upon these journeys in open rowboats, and the time involved, these islands have been visited only semioccasionally, and little or nothing is known of conditions there.

There has been on the island for years an old Government rowboat about 28 feet long, with 6 feet of beam, built in San Francisco on the lines of a surfboat. This was disabled several years after its receipt on the island by the warping of defective stem and stern posts, tearing open the planking fore and aft. In 1903, with the permission of the lessee's agent, I had this boat brought up to the lessee's shop, and after a force of natives had worked on it for several months the boat was put into practically as good shape as when new. It is now in commission on the island.

It is too heavy to be readily pulled by hand from place to place, and it is this boat into which it is intended to place the engine, if furnished.

A suitable gasoline launch, with arrangements for towing a small boat, would better suit our purpose, as a launch probably would have more beam, and would be decked over sufficiently to protect the engine from the splash when running in a head sea. But should the department feel that a regular launch can not be furnished, I feel sure that, with the aid of the natives and the officers of the company on the islands, the rowboat mentioned could be remodeled and fitted with a gasoline engine should the purchase of the latter be authorized.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Approved.

EDWIN W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

2403—H. Doc. 93, 62—1——30

Bureau Req. No. 114. Dep't Req. No. 5672.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
April 20, 1906.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below:

EDWIN W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

Approved: Assistant Secretary considers favorably.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No. OM. One marine gasoline engine, about 10-horsepower. Ordered shipped direct from manufacturer.

Received: W. I. LEMBKEY.
Invoiced June 11, 1906.—J. H. W.
Compared.—C. W. R.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, *May 1, 1906.*

Mr. EDWIN W. SIMS,
Solicitor, Department Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith my account for salary, for the month of April, 1906, amounting to $243.33.

I would thank you to send check in settlement to me at 1167 Neil Avenue, this city.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

Vouchers approved and forwarded to disbursing clerk, May 2, 1906.

E. W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, May 1, 1906.

The SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have respectfully to request that I be furnished with a book of transportation blanks for the use of myself and assistant agents in traveling to and from the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, on Government business.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Approved. EDWIN W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, May 4, 1906.

The SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have respectfully to report that at your suggestion I visited the War and the Navy Departments for the purpose of ascertaining the form of marine explosive engine adopted by their various services for use in small boats, with the following results:

At the Navy Department I was informed by the chief clerk that, while that department had in use a number of gasoline engines of various makes, they had decided upon none of them as being better than the others. They had, in fact, on hand at the moment I called a number of bids from the various manufacturers for engines required by the department, but these bids had not been opened, and until that was done it was stated that the department would be unable to advise me which make of engine was considered the best. He advised me to correspond with the Aolean Co., of which Admiral Burnham was a member, believing that the latter gentleman would be able to give much useful information on the subject.

I then called upon the chief clerk of the Quartermaster's Department of the Army, and was introduced to Mr. Anthony, the naval expert of the War Department. Mr. Anthony showed great familiarity with the subject of marine explosive engines, and informed me, in fact, that he owned two gasoline launches, both of which he built himself.

He stated that, after careful examination and considerable testing, the War Department had found the Jaeger engine, manufactured in New York, to be the best for installation in small boats such as the one now on St. Paul Island. He made a full technical statement of its merits as compared with other makes, the details of which I am unable to remember. From his own experience, and that of the department as well, he strongly advised the purchase of a Jaeger engine for the St. Paul boat.

I then asked him his opinion as to the merits of a marine oil engine. He stated frankly that oil engines for small boats, in his opinion, were unsatisfactory. By reason of the great demand for gasoline engines engineering talent had brought that type to a high state of perfection, to the exclusion of the oil engine, which was little used and which practically was still in its infancy. The trouble with the oil engine, he said, was the fact that before an explosion could be obtained a hollow iron ball had to be heated to a state of incandescence by means of a hydrocarbon lamp. This operation required from 15 to 30 minutes and made the oil engine as slow to get into operation as a steam engine with water-tube boiler. For these and other reasons he believed the oil engine would be unsatisfactory for use on the islands, and again strongly recommended a gasoline engine of the Jaeger pattern.

In view of the statements of Mr. Anthony I would respectfully recommend that a Jaeger engine be purchased for St. Paul Island.

At your suggestion, upon my return from the War Department, I furnished Mr. Fowler, the Chief of the Division of Supplies, with the address of the manufacturers of the engine mentioned.

I would add that Mr. Anthony stated that, in his opinion, a 10-horsepower engine was not too large for the boat on St. Paul, which is 28 feet over all by 6 feet beam.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Approved.

EDWIN W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

Bureau Req. No. 119. Dep't Req. No. 5807.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
May 15, 1906.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

EDWIN W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

Approved.

T. L. W., *Acting Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.		Articles.	Cost.
	Desired.	Issued.		
91	25 pounds[1]	June 1	Cotton waste (ordered May 28, 1906)	
OM.	12 [1]	...do...	Dry batteries, engine size (ordered May 31, 1906)	
OM.	1 barrel		Cylinder oil, 52 gallons, from Lighthouse Establishment at San Francisco, at 40 cents.	$20.80
751	2 [1]	June 1	Oil cans (ordered May 28, 1906)	
OM.	1 [1]	...do...	Voltmeter (ordered May 31, 1906)	
OM.	1		Generator (ordered May 18, 1906), direct from manufacturer	
OM.	220 gallons		Gasoline, from San Francisco, at 15 cents	33.00
OM.	4		Iron barrels, from San Francisco, at $8.50	34.00

[1] 1 box by Adams Express.

To be delivered at St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, with gasoline engine.
Invoiced June 11, 1906.—J. H. W.
Compared.—C. W. R.
Received the above ———, 190—.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, May 16, 1906.

The SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: Referring to my letter of the 9th instant, wherein I reported that certain supplies were required for the Government houses on St. George and St. Paul Islands, Alaska, I have now to state that the following articles are necessary, in addition to those already mentioned, for the proper conduct of business at the places stated:

Two field glasses, one for each island.

These glasses, one for each island, are required for use of the armed watchmen stationed at the watch houses remote from the villages, to determine the class, and if possible, the nationality of approaching vessels, and report the information by telephone to the village, from which aid, if required, may be sent.

Glasses, for use of the watchmen, have long been required. The Government agents use glasses of their own. The lessee supplies its agents with glasses. The watchmen have none, and their reports, made from observations with the naked eye, are so often erroneous as to cast doubt upon their statements whenever made. A pair of good glasses in each watch house is a vital necessity and their provision by the department is respectfully but urgently requested.

I have just received word from Agent Judge to the effect that both houses are much in need of wall paper and swiss for window curtains. I had overlooked this matter in my letter of the 9th instant, but now desire to indorse Mr. Judge's statement, and request that authority be given me to purchase in San Francisco, through the North American Commercial Co., 25 double bolts of wall paper, with border, and 1 bolt of swiss muslin, for each island.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Approved.

E. W. SIMS, *Solicitor.*

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 22, 1906.*

To the SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, for appropriate action, my account for expenses incurred in traveling on official business, from Washington, D. C., to St. Paul Island, Alaska, amounting to $78.80.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *October 16, 1906.*

To the SOLICITOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, for appropriate action, my account for salary for the months of May and June, 1906, amounting to $486.67.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, November 14, 1906.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my account for traveling expenses from St. Paul Island, Alaska, to Washington, D. C., under authority of department letter of March 9, 1906, copy of which is attached.

I desire to call attention to the fact that my bill for hotel and meals at Seattle, Wash., exceeds the $5 per diem limit prescribed in the inclosed letter, for the reason that I was unable to secure rates on the

American plan, and the only room I was able to get was at the Hotel Butler, at $2.50 per diem. At the time I arrived there, travelers were going from one hotel to another in search of rooms and were lined up at the hotel counter 15 in a row.

I was in Seattle only two days. I have the honor to request, in view of the foregoing explanation, that the excess charges for subsistence in Seattle over $5 per diem be allowed.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Alaskan Seal Fisheries.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

1907.

Part I.—Instructions to Agents and Agents' Reports.

April 15, 1907.

Mr. W. I. Lembkey,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Sir: Section 1. *Order to proceed to islands.*—You are directed to proceed to the seal islands in time to arrive there before the beginning of the sealing season of 1907, there to assume charge of the Government's interest on the islands. Assistant Agent Ezra W. Clark will be instructed to accompany you to the islands, and will report to you for instructions.

Sec. 2. *Assignment of assistants.*—You will make such assignment of the assistant agents for the season's work as in your judgment will best subserve the interests of the service and the welfare of the native inhabitants, and will notify the department of your action in this regard.

Sec. 3. *Agents to report to Washington.*—At the close of the sealing season, or as soon thereafter as feasible, yourself and Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester will return to Washington and report for duty at the department. Assistant Agent Clark, as well as Assistant Agent Judge, will remain on the islands during the coming summer.

Sec. 4. *Copies of contract inclosed.*—Inclosed herewith are copies of the contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co., and it will be your duty and that of your assistants, to see that its provisions are enforced and the rights of the Government and those of the lessee duly protected.

Sec. 5. *Decision in event of difference.*—Should a difference of opinion arise at any time between yourself and the representatives of the company in respect to a matter of administration on the islands, your decision must govern, but in all cases you should request the superintendent of the company to furnish a written statement of his views on the question involved. This statement should be transmitted to the department with an expression of your own views, at the earliest practicable moment.

Sec. 6. *Quota.*—If the condition of the herd will permit, the lessee may be allowed to take during the season of 1907 as many as 13,000 male seals of the proper age on the island of St. Paul, and as many as 2,000 on the island of St. George, but not more than the number specified in either case, provided, however, that in case the number of male seals hauling on St. George Island is so greatly in excess of the number usually hauling there as to convince the Government agent in charge on St. George that there has been a material contemporaneous diminution in the number of male seals hauling on

St. Paul Island, said agent in charge may, in his discretion, authorize the taking of a total of not to exceed 3,000 seals on St. George Island. This taking is, of course, to be subject to all the other requirements and limitations of these regulations. The numbers to which the quotas of the two islands are thus limited shall be inclusive of any skins accepted by the company from food drives made prior to the present sealing season. No seals shall be taken this season that have reached the age of four years (i. e., seals that have attained their fifth summer), nor shall any seals be taken that are under two years of age.

SEC. 7. *Reservation of young males.*—In order to remove all doubt as to the reservation of a sufficient number of male seals for the perpetuation of the herd, you are instructed to release from among the best seals appearing in the first drives of the season not less than 1,000 three-year-old males and not less than 1,000 two-year-old males. Of the 3-year-olds and 2-year-olds to be reserved, 800 of each shall be released on the island of St. Paul and 200 of each on the island of St. George. The seals thus released are to be marked in such a manner as will make them readily recognizable throughout the season, and under no circumstances are they to be taken by the lessee.

SEC. 8. *Sizes of killable seals.*—No seals shall be killed having skins weighing less than 5 pounds, nor more than 8½ pounds. Skins weighing less than 5 pounds or more than 8½ pounds shall not be shipped from the islands, but shall be held there subject to such instructions as may be furnished you hereafter by the department.

SEC. 9. *Killing season.*—The killing season should begin as soon after the 1st of June as the rookeries are in condition for driving. Seals shall not be killed by the lessee later than July 31. The killing of pups for food for the natives, or for any other purpose, is not to be permitted.

SEC. 10. *Seals for food.*—The number of seals to be killed by the natives for food for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1907, shall not exceed 1,700 on the island of St. Paul and 500 on the island of St. George, subject to the same limitations and restrictions as apply to the killing of seals by the company for its quota. Care should be taken that no branded seals be killed in the drives for food.

SEC. 11. *Driving.*—The representatives of the company on the islands should be required to give notice on the day preceding that on which they desire to make a drive of seals, stating the name of the rookery selected. The time, place, and manner of conducting all drives shall be subject to your approval. A representative of the Government should be present on the killing ground in each instance to superintend the killing. If at any time the methods employed in driving or killing appear in your judgment to be faulty or detrimental to the seal herd, you should see that such methods are immediately corrected, indicating to the representative of the company what changes are to be made.

SEC. 12. *Killing grounds.*—As heretofore, you should establish on each of the islands killing grounds that can be reached by the shortest possible drive, provided, however, that such killing grounds must be at places sufficiently distant from the rookeries to prevent annoyance from the decaying carcasses.

SEC. 13. *Acceptance of skins.*—In an opinion dated March 8, 1902, it was held by the Solicitor of the Treasury that the lessee has

no right to reject any of the skins taken from the seals which it has selected for killing. You will therefore see that all such skins, regardless of condition, are accepted.

SEC. 14. *Counting skins.*—All the sealskins should be carefully counted in the salt houses in the presence of the department agent and of the representative of the company, and a receipt, in duplicate, in the following form should be prepared and signed by said agent and by the representative of the company:

ST. ——— ISLAND, ———, *19*—.

We certify that there have been placed in salt in the salt house in our presence, ——— sealskins.

———— ————,
Agent United States Department of Commerce and Labor.

———— ————,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

SEC. 15. *Receipts for sealskins salted.*—The original of the above receipt should be retained by the department agent and the duplicate be given to the representative of the North American Commercial Co. At the close of the season, when the sealskins are again counted and shipped on board the company's steamer, the usual annual receipts should be signed by the captain of the steamer and the representative of the department.

SEC. 16. *Trading in skins.*—The North American Commercial Co. has the exclusive privilege under its contract of taking sealskins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and you should see that the company is protected in this right. Care should be taken to prevent the disposal of skins by the natives to any other company or to any person. All trading in sealskins by the natives is strictly prohibited, nor shall the natives be permitted to do any trading in fox skins.

SEC. 17. *Measures to prevent shipment of skins by natives.*—To avoid the possibility of sealskins or fox skins being surreptitiously shipped from the islands, you are directed to continue the practice of examining all goods to be shipped by the natives, including baggage and personal effects and where barrels, casks, boxes, or other receptacles are used they should be closed under your supervision, after an examination of their contents before being placed in the warehouse. Any skins found concealed in packages to be shipped by the natives should be seized and held, subject to instructions from the department.

SEC. 18. *Census of seal herd.*—You are expected to make a thorough examination into the condition of the seal herd during the coming season and to make a careful count of the number of breeding seals, male and female, on the islands, and also a computation as accurate as possible of the number of seals not breeding, including idle bulls, half bulls, bachelors, and virgin females. A careful enumeration should also be made of the pups found dead at the close of the season, and such information as can be had regarding the cause of death reported: *Provided, however,* That in case the presence of pelagic schooners near the islands at any time during the summer should make it unwise to so disturb the rookeries by counting as to drive off the breeding seals into the water, yourself and the assistant agent in charge on St. George should use your discretion as to what further counts should be made, or whether counting should be discontinued altogether for the remainder of the season.

SEC. 19. *Sealskins to be weighed.*—You are instructed to have the skins of the seals taken by the lessee during the coming season carefully weighed and to keep a record of the weights for the information of the department. You should also weigh the skins of seals that are killed to supply food for the natives and record the weights. The natives may be required to assist as far as practicable in the work of weighing.

SEC. 20. *Care of the natives.*—The care and welfare of the natives should receive your close attention, and you are directed to see that the lessee performs all of the obligations of its contract toward such natives. You should ascertain the prices charged at the company's stores, compare them with the prices at San Francisco, and report any instances where the natives are compelled to pay unfair prices. You should also inspect the articles supplied as to quality and quanity, and if they are in any manner deficient you should report the fact to the department.

SEC. 21. *Compensation to natives for taking skins.*—In view of the increase of the prices charged the natives on the seal islands for necessaries of life by the lessee, the latter has been informed that the compensation to be paid by the company for killing, salting, curing, bundling, and loading the sealskins on the company's steamers will be 75 cents for each skin, instead of 50 cents a skin, as heretofore. The increase of 25 cents per skin, made last year, is designed to meet the increased cost of necessaries of life on the islands. It is the purpose of the department to require that the prices of labor in the work of sealing by the natives shall be adjusted to meet, as far as may be, the increased cost of articles required for their subsistence. You are therefore directed to notify the department of any further increase in the prices of goods sold by the company to the natives. The money thus earned is to constitute a community fund for distribution among the natives, according to their respective classes. At the close of the sealing season, after a conference with the native chiefs, you will make such division of the fund among the natives, according to their classification, as is deemed fair and just, and submit a report of such division, showing the amount apportioned to each native participating in the fund. This report should be accompanied with an indorsement of approval from the native chiefs and a certificate from the company's agent that such funds have been credited to such natives on the books of the company.

SEC. 22. *Returns to natives under fox contract.*—The contract granting the North American Commercial Co. the right to propagate on the islands of St. Paul and St. George the fur-bearing animal known as the blue fox will expire on April 1, proximo. The question of renewing said contract for the ensuing fiscal year is now under consideration by the department. If a new contract is concluded, you will be advised in a later communication regarding its terms. Should you fail to receive notice of the execution of such a contract, you are directed to see that no fox skins are taken by the company.

In the absence of a contract with the company, you will exercise your judgment as regards permitting any fox skins to be taken by the natives. If you are convinced that it will be advisable to allow the killing of a certain quota of foxes, you may permit a reasonable quota to be taken under the direction of the Government agents, the skins to be delivered into your custody and to be retained by you awaiting

instructions from the department as to the manner of their disposal. If skins are thus taken, the question of applying the proceeds in whole or in part to the support of the natives will be given careful consideration.

SEC. 23. *Payment of natives' earnings.*—The amounts that are earned from the company by the natives for labor other than sealing and foxing are to be paid to them in cash, and you will instruct the company's representatives accordingly. The funds earned from sealing and foxing, however, are to be disbursed on orders, as heretofore. The payment to the natives of money from the appropriation for their maintenance, upon the orders of the Government agent, is strictly prohibited. Articles that do not properly come within the term "necessaries" should not be exposed for sale in the company's stores nor sold to the natives for the money they earn by labor.

SEC. 24. *Support of natives.*—Congress has appropriated the sum of $19,500 "to enable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to furnish food, fuel, and clothing and other necessaries of life to the native inhabitants on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska," during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, and the greatest care and economy should be exercised in the expenditure of this appropriation. Articles of strict necessity only should be issued. No expensive dress goods, boots, or other articles are to be provided. Each of the natives should be restricted to one pair of dress shoes per year, and each of the women to one good dress. Ginghams, calicoes, muslins, and similar inexpensive dress goods may be issued in reasonable quantities.

The supply of fuel for the use of the natives is paid for from this appropriation, and the cost of such fuel should not be overlooked in determining how much of the appropriation is available for other purposes. In the distribution of supplies no distinction is to be made between persons without means and those having small savings from previous years.

You will continue the plan, adopted under previous instructions, of issuing orders upon the company for such supplies as are required by the native inhabitants. At the end of the season, as heretofore, you will submit to the department the stubs of the orders given, payable from the appropriation, for use in verifying the accounts of the company.

SEC. 25. *Coal supply.*—The North American Commercial Co. has agreed to furnish during the coming season for use on the islands 315 long tons of coal at $20 per ton, including delivery on the beach, 215 tons to be delivered on St. Paul Island and 100 tons on St. George Island. This coal, with the 80 tons additional that the company is required to furnish under the terms of its contract, will make available for all purposes a supply of 395 tons, and in its distribution the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George are to be included.

Of the 315 tons purchased from the company, you may make the following distribution:

	Tons.
St. Paul Island:	
For the Government house	15
For use of the natives	200
St. George Island:	
For the Government house	15
For use of the natives	85
Total	315

Of the 80 tons furnished by the company without charge under its contract, 50 tons may be distributed to the natives of St. Paul and 30 tons to the natives of St. George.

SEC. 26. *Dwellings for natives.*—The agreement of the company in its contract to furnish the native inhabitants of the islands a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings and to keep such dwellings in proper repair should be strictly enforced.

SEC. 27. *Schools for the natives.*—You will require the schools for the native children to be maintained from September 1 to May 1 and to be open 5 days in each week, the school hours to be from 9 o'clock a. m. to 3 o'clock p. m., with an hour recess at noon and 15 minutes recess in the forenoon.

It will be your duty to see that the teachers appointed by the company are competent to teach the English language and that they faithfully perform this duty. None but the English language shall be taught in the schools.

If the parents of the children on the islands desire to send them to the Jessie Lee Home, at Unalaska, the department has no objection, provided no expenditure of public money is involved in their transportation to Unalaska or their maintenance and schooling while there. This course will also be permitted, under the same conditions, in the case of orphan children for whom provision is now made by the company under its contract.

SEC. 28. *Widows, orphans, aged and infirm.*—The company is required by its contract to provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands who are unable to provide for themselves, and you will see that this obligation is fully enforced. Widows and orphans having small sums of money to their credit should not be compelled to spend them and become wholly dependent before they are allowed to draw supplies under this provision in the company's contract. Such sums, as well as similar accounts held by other natives, may be drawn upon from time to time, however, with the consent and under the direction of the Government agent, for such reasonable articles as will contribute to the comfort of the persons possessing the funds.

SEC. 29. *Natives to render service.*—In consideration of the support gratuitously afforded the natives by the Government, you are directed to utilize their services, when not required by the company, in repairing roads, guarding the rookeries, and performing such other duties as may seem desirable. This instruction is not to be regarded, however, as relieving the company from its obligation to employ the natives, at a fair and just compensation, for all such work as they are fitted to perform.

SEC. 30. *Election of native chiefs.*—No interference should be permitted in the selection of their chiefs by the native inhabitants of the islands. If it should transpire, however, that persons manifestly unsuitable for the position are chosen, it will be your duty to interpose in the interest of good government and require the selection of proper persons, but such action should be taken only in extreme cases.

SEC. 31. *Sale of intoxicants prohibited.*—The company agrees in its contract that it will not permit any of its agents to keep, sell, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits, or spirituous liquors or opium on either of the islands or the waters adjacent thereto to any of the

native inhabitants, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as a medicine. This obligation is to be rigidly enforced.

SEC. 32. *Manufacture of intoxicants prohibited.*—The brewing or distilling of intoxicating beverages on the islands is prohibited. In the enforcement of this provision you are authorized to discontinue the sale from the company's stores of sugar, or other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants, to any person who violates this order, or who is found to be intoxicated. Should intoxication become so general among the people as to interfere with good government and jeopardize the peace, you are authorized to discontinue altogether the sale of sugar and of other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants, for such length of time as may appear wise.

SEC. 33. *Removal for cause.*—Should natives or other persons become so unruly or immoral in conduct as to endanger the peace and good government of the people, they should be removed from the islands, and the Revenue-Cutter Service will be instructed to render such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose.

SEC. 34. *Landing on the islands restricted.*—No persons other than Government officers, representatives and employees of the North American Commercial Co., and duly accredited representatives of the Russian Church shall be allowed to land on the islands except by written authority from the department. The permission granted representatives of the Russian Church to visit the islands may be suspended, however, when its exercise is attempted by an improper person. Visitors to the islands should not be permitted to inspect the rookeries, except under your supervision.

SEC. 35. *Killing of sea lions to be limited.*—The preservation of the sea-lion rookeries on the islands is highly important. The killing of these animals should be limited to such numbers as are absolutely necessary in providing for the construction of bidarras or skin boats. Sea-lion pups should not be killed for any purpose.

SEC. 36. *Information regarding affairs on the islands.*—No information regarding the seals, or any other matter pertaining to the seal islands, is to be given out by you or by any of the assistant agents. All applications for such information should be referred to the department.

SEC. 37. *Conclusion.*—The maintenance of guards on isolated rookeries to prevent illegal landings and raids should be continued.

Should questions arise involving matters not covered by these instructions it will be your duty to report the facts to the department and to await instructions, except in cases requiring immediate decision, when you will take such action as sound judgment dictates.

The instructions embodied in this letter are to remain in force until they are superseded by later ones, and in the event of your failure to receive revised instructions for a subsequent season, the directions herein given are to be followed for such season so far as they are applicable.

Three additional copies of this letter are inclosed herewith, and you are directed to furnish one of these copies to each of the assistant agents for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

APRIL 15, 1907.

SIR: You are hereby authorized to deliver to the North American Commercial Co. the sealskins (166 in number) which weighed less than 5 pounds or more than 8½ pounds, retained on the Pribilof Islands during the season of 1906 under instructions from this department. These skins should be included in the company's quota for the current year.

This action is based on the assumption that the number of such prohibited skins is so small as to justify the belief that they were taken only through unavoidable accident, mistake, or error in judgment.

In this connection you are informed that the current instructions against the taking of skins under and over the weights mentioned must be most rigidly enforced.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

APRIL 27, 1907.

Mr. E. W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: You are hereby directed to proceed to San Francisco in time to take passage for the Pribilof Islands on the vessel of the North American Commercial Co. leaving the above port on or about May 18, proximo.

Upon your arrival at San Francisco you will report to Agent W. I. Lembkey, who will take passage on the same vessel for the islands mentioned.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, April 27, 1907.

Mr. E. W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: You are hereby directed to proceed to San Francisco in time to take passage for the Pribilof Islands on the vessel of the North American Commercial Co. leaving the above port on or about May 18, proximo.

Upon your arrival at San Francisco you will report to Agent W. I. Lembkey, who will take passage on the same vessel for the islands mentioned.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, April 30, 1907.

SIR: Authority is hereby given for the travel of yourself and Assistant Agent E. W. Clark from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, in the spring of 1907, and of yourself and Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester from the Pribilof Islands to Washington, D. C., in the fall of 1907, such travel to be by the most direct and usually traveled routes. If excess baggage is necessary for the travel authorized, charges therefor may be included in amounts not to exceed $30, for each agent, for the trip going out. On the return trip, 100 pounds of excess baggage will be allowed, if actually necessary, and not to exceed 250 pounds may be transported as freight direct from San Francisco, Cal., through the Quartermaster's Department, via Ogden

The actual necessary expenses of yourself and the assistant agents for board and lodging at San Francisco, Cal., not to exceed $5 per diem during such reasonable time as may be necessary for the transaction of official business pending your departure for Alaska, will be allowed. Your arrival on the Pacific coast should be so timed as to relieve the department of any charges for detention there for a longer period than required for the transaction of official business. This injunction applies as well to the stay on the Pacific coast of yourself and the assistant agent upon your return from Alaska en route to the department.

Yours, very respectfully,

———— ————,
Assistant Secretary.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 12, 1907.*

Hon. L. O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival, on the 3d instant, on the Pribilof Islands.

Conditions on both islands are good. At both villages the births during the past year exceeded the deaths. I found both Agents Judge and Chichester, on St. Paul and St. George, respectively, to be well, and to have administered affairs successfully. Agent Judge will remain on St. Paul another year. Agent Chichester and myself will report in the fall for duty at the department.

The fox catch on St. George last winter (366 blues and 8 whites) fell nearly 100 from the catch of 1906, when 456 blues and 11 whites were taken. This decrease, however, was due more to an open winter (as was the last one), and the consequent presence of natural food, which kept foxes away from the traps, than to an actual diminution of the fox herd. No foxes were taken last winter on St.

Paul, for the reason that only a few were found on that island, and none could be killed without the danger of the extermination of the species on that island.

No female seals have arrived yet on either island. The bulls are here, however, awaiting the arrival of the cows. Preliminary examination indicates that the decrease in bulls during the last winter was more moderate than usual, due to accessions of new bulls as the result of the reservation of marked males. In fact, certain rookeries already show an increase in bulls over last year. Among those present, young bulls preponderate, with a minority of middle-aged males. No old bulls are present. The count of bulls which we will make at the height of the season probably will show only a slight decrease from the number present last year. There was found on the islands last fall a greatly increased number of nursing seal pups dying from starvation, as the result of the killing of their mothers by pelagic sealers. This indicates a heavy mortality in breeding females since last season.

Revenue cutters already have begun active patrol about the islands. The *Perry* at present is stationed at St. Paul, with the *Manning* at St. George. These stations will be alternated during the summer. Capt. Munger, fleet captain, with his staff, is stationed at Unalaska, having arrived there on the *Perry* while I was at Dutch Harbor.

Upon the arrival at St. Paul, on the 8th instant, of the *Perry* on patrol, Capt. Dunwoody notified me in writing of his intention to patrol the 60-mile limit, as well as the 3-mile territorial limit about the islands, and requested me to communicate with him on every arrival of the cutter, in order that he may be kept advised of the situation. At his request, I went aboard the *Perry* and arranged a code of special signals for use in communicating between the cutters on patrol and the agents on shore. The *Perry* makes a daily circuit of the 3-mile limit about St. Paul, a steaming distance of over 40 miles, and is communicated with daily from shore by signals or otherwise.

No branding or killing of bachelors has occurred since my arrival, there being but few bachelors present as yet. I shall secure the quota of bachelors to be reserved for breeding before killing for skins.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 13, 1907.*

MY DEAR MR. MURRAY: I am sending herewith an official letter regarding affairs on the islands during the past winter and at the time of my arrival. Both Agents Judge and Chichester should be commended for the efficiency of their administrations.

There is every indication of a thorough patrol about the islands this summer. A cutter is constantly at each island, either at anchor or patrolling the 3-mile limit. In fact, the continuous presence of the cutter at the village makes me hesitate to visit the rookeries, for fear the cutter should signal during my absence.

It is my purpose in every way possible to establish communication with the service on a friendly basis and to cooperate fully with all captains on patrol.

The Japanese sealers did not leave the sea last year until the 1st of October.

With the promise of faithful work during the summer, I am, believe me,

Very sincerely, yours, W. I. LEMBKEY.

Hon. LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 20, 1907.*

Hon. L. O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have the honor to report that since the 15th instant, when a schooner was seized by the *Perry*, two schooners were sighted from this island on the 16th instant and three schooners on the 19th instant, all in close proximity to the shore. Captains of cutters on patrol have been advised.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 20, 1907.*

Hon. L. O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a copy of an official letter to me from the captain of the U. S. S. *Perry*, detailing the seizure of a Japanese schooner for a violation of the laws of the United States prohibiting the killing of seals.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

[Copy.]

STEAMER "PERRY,"
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 15, 1907.

To the CHIEF AGENT IN CHARGE,
Fur-Seal Fisheries, Pribilof Islands.

SIR: I have to inform you that I have this day seized the Japanese schooner *Miye Maru, Toba*, having fallen in with five of her boats,

with three men in each boat, engaged in hunting the fur seal 2½ miles of Otter Island. The boats contained no bodies of seal or sealskins, but each contained an outfit suitable for killing seals, and I have seized the vessel on the ground that she has violated the law by reason of her boats hunting seals within Territorial waters.

I will take the prize to Unalaska immediately, stopping at St. George Island to notify Capt. Cantwell, of the *Manning*, in order that he may guard the waters around both islands during my absence.

Respectfully,

F. M. DUNWOODY,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S., Commanding.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *August 31, 1907.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

Arrived with Agent Chichester. Fourteen thousand nine hundred sixty-four sealskins shipped, this year's quota.

LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisher.

11.05 a. m., September 1, 1907.

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF SEPTEMBER 9, 1907.

By W. I. LEMBKEY, Agent in Charge of Alaskan Seal Fisheries.

[From S. Doc. No. 376, 60th Cong., 1st sess.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, September 9, 1907.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following preliminary report of the administration of affairs on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, reservation during the season ended July 31, 1907:

FUR SEALS KILLED.

The quota of 15,000 fur-seal skins for both islands was obtained.

The number of sealskins taken and shipped by the lessee of the sealing right follows: St. Paul, 12,384; St. George, 2,580; total, 14,964.

There were held on the islands during the season in question as having been taken contrary to the department's regulations the following number of skins: St. Paul, 15; St. George, 20; total, 35.

These skins were either larger or smaller than the limit prescribed, and are now retained on the islands subject to further instructions.

CHANGE OF QUOTA.

The current regulations of the department prescribed as the quotas for the separate islands 13,000 for St. Paul and 2,000 for St. George. By section 6, however, it was permitted, in case the number of

young males hauling on St. George was so large as to lead the agent there to believe that a contemporaneous diminution existed in the seals hauling on St. Paul, to increase the quota of St. George by a number not exceeding 1,000.

The hauling grounds last season showed a condition exactly similar to that mentioned in the regulation above cited. The catch on St. Paul, up to the middle of July, 1907, fell nearly 2,000 below the number taken during the same period the previous year; while the killable seals were so plentiful on St. George as to allow the quota of 2,000 for that island to be taken practically on July 15. This having been reported to me by Agent Clark in several communications, and he having requested that the St. George quota be raised, accordingly, on July 17, I addressed a letter to him authorizing the taking on St. George of an additional number of 600 skins, at the same time reducing the St. Paul quota by that number. Capt. Dunwoody, of the *Perry*, brought Maj. Clark's letter to me and returned to St. George with my reply within 24 hours—furnishing probably the quickest communication between the islands on record.

After reducing the St. Paul quota, however, killable seals began to pour in upon the hauling grounds of that island and its quota of 12,400 practically was secured by July 28, with three more days of sealing to spare. At the same time, the number hauling on St. George in nowise diminished and the increased quota on that island practically was secured by July 24, with a week of the sealing period yet to elapse. It is my judgment that had sealing been carried on to July 31, the limit of time fixed by law, at least 1,500 sealskins could have been secured in addition to those taken.

DECREASE IN BREEDING FEMALES.

Owing to the presence about the islands all summer of a large fleet of pelagic schooners, some of which were visible daily from land, counts of breeding seals beyond the enumerations necessary to arrive at an estimate of the number present, were omitted on St. Paul, where the greater number of seals find their habitat. From those counts made, however, it would appear that a large decrease in breeding cows has occurred since 1906. These estimates show that on St. Paul, at the end of the season of 1907, but 40,000 breeding cows were present as against 52,700 present in 1906, and 65,884 in 1905. On St. George 9,371 breeding cows are estimated for the past season of 1907, as against 11,457 in 1906. This decrease in breeding cows is due directly to pelagic sealing.

INCREASE IN BULLS.

Notwithstanding the decrease in breeding cows already noted, the condition of the rookeries this summer shows that the decrease in bulls, which has been constant for years past, has been checked. Indeed, an increase in bulls on St. George since last season actually occurred.

The counts of adult bulls on St. Paul in 1907 show 1,183 stationed bulls as against 1,244 in 1906—a decrease in stationed bulls of only 4 per cent, as contrasted with the 18 per cent decrease of the year previous. In addition to the stationed bulls, however, there were noted in 1907, 74 young bulls known as "quitters" (i. e., those run-

ning away at the approach of man), when only 41 were present in 1906. These "quitters" are 6 and 7 year olds that can serve cows, and which in many instances would not desert if they could obtain a cow or two. A comparison of the whole number of stationed bulls and "quitters" for the two years shows that St. Paul in 1907 is within 28 bulls of equaling the number present in 1906—an insignificant decrease when compared with the steady annual decreases averaging 20 per cent in the five years last passed. In addition to these, 100 young bulls were noted in 1907 hanging about the rookery water fronts on St. Paul, when not over 25 were seen the previous year, showing that, in spite of increased pelagic sealing and the steady falling off among breeding cows, the number of bulls on St. Paul practically increased in 1907.

On St. George, as already stated, an actual increase in stationed bulls occurred—221 in 1907 as against 208 in 1906. The "quitters" and "water bulls" on that island were not reported. This gratifying condition, so far as breeding bulls are concerned, is due directly to the regulations in force limiting killing on land, and demonstrates what could be done toward maintaining ideal conditions on the breeding rookeries were pelagic sealing abolished.

PELAGIC SEALING.

Pelagic sealing about the islands during the sealing season of 1907 was carried on more actively than in 1906. Notwithstanding this, no raids were made on any of the rookeries in 1907—due probably to the active patrol by the Revenue-Cutter Service—and no arrests were made on shore. One boat containing three Japanese from a pelagic schooner landed on St. Paul on July 18, claiming to have been shipwrecked. These men, on July 20, were delivered to the captain of the cutter *Perry*, who, at their request, put them on board the first pelagic schooner he fell in with.

Pelagic schooners were in sight from St. Paul Island almost daily during the summer. Their presence was so much a matter of course that after a week or two the guards at the various watch stations did not make a detailed report of the number seen unless some unusual incident occurred or the number was so large as to make the subject of special moment. On July 6, 12 schooners were apparent from St. Paul, while on July 19 there were in sight 23 schooners and at least 30 small boats, all operating within sight of land. Some of the small boats in the vicinity of Southwest Point were well within the 3-mile limit. On June 25 a landing was made on Otter Island by the crews of two small boats, who also fired a number of shots from shotguns in close proximity to that island. On July 25 three warning shots were fired wide by the native guard at Northeast Point at the crew of a small boat that approached within one-half mile of the rookery, and which, when the warning was given, was standing directly in for Hutchinson Hill, where the greatest mass of seals is found. The shots made the boat turn hurriedly about and put for the open sea. Other instances occurred of pelagic sealing within the 3-mile limit which need not be recounted here.

The revenue cutter *Perry* on June 15 seized the *Miye Maru*, of Toba, Japan, for having five of her boats equipped with sealing paraphernalia within the 3-mile limit surrounding Otter Island. On or

about July 2 the *Manning* seized two other Japanese schooners for having small boats within 3 miles of St. Paul Island with freshly killed seals aboard and a full equipment for sealing. The *Miye Maru* was released on order of Capt. Munger at Unalaska on the ground of insufficient evidence. The two schooners seized by the *Manning* were held at Unalaska and their crews taken to Valdez for trial.

On St. George Island no instances of violation of our laws by pelagic schooners occurred, and but two schooners were seen from that island during the summer.

REVENUE-CUTTER PATROL.

The revenue-cutter patrol about the islands this summer was active and energetic, and by far the best in the history of the islands. There is no question that the captains in command used every effort to prevent landings and to capture such schooners as had boats within the 3-mile limit. Such violations of law of this character as did occur took place while the cutters were patrolling other portions of the islands, and can not in any sense be considered as due to any lack of vigilance on the part of the captains commanding the patrolling vessels.

RESERVATION OF MALE SEALS.

On the islands the reservation of 1,000 2-year-old and 1,000 3-year-old male seals for breeding purposes was made as usual in the proportion of 800 of each on St. Paul and 200 of each on St. George. This was accomplished by clipping the fur off the head of each seal so reserved by means of sheep shears, the mark thus made assuring the exemption of the animal when it appeared in the killing drives during the summer.

BLUE FOXES.

On St. Paul no foxes were taken during the winter of 1906–7. On St. George, 366 blue and 8 white foxes were taken and the skins delivered to the North American Commercial Co., the latter paying therefor the stipulated price of $5 for each blue and $1 for each white fox skin. The fox catch of the last season shows a falling off from that of the season preceding of approximately 90 skins, which is due, according to Agent Chichester, more to climatic conditions than to an actual decrease in the fox herd.

CONDITION OF NATIVES.

During the past year the general health of the natives has been good. The native population of the two islands on July 1, 1907, numbered 263, of which St. Paul had 170 and St. George 93, an increase over the previous annual census of 4 individuals.

A more detailed report of the season's work is being prepared and will be submitted at as early a date as possible.

Respectfully,

W. I. Lembkey,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

To Hon. Oscar S. Straus,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

Annual Report Seal Fisheries of Alaska.

By W. I. Lembkey, Agent in Charge of Alaskan Seal Fisheries.

[From S. Doc. No. 376, 60th Cong., 1st sess.]

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Division of Alaskan Fisheries,
Washington, December 1, 1907.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of the administration of affairs on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, reservation during the season of 1907:

MARKING OF BACHELORS.

The first marking of bachelors on St. Paul under instruction from the department contained in its letter to me of April 13, 1907, was made on June 19 from Reef rookery. On that date 332 young males were marked—211 3-year-olds and 121 2-year-olds. The method of marking was with sheep shears, with which a patch of hair on the head of each seal was clipped off. On June 24 another drive was made at Zapadni, from which 141 2-year and 138 3-year olds were marked. On June 25 another drive of probably 1,200 seals was made from Reef, from which 424 2-year and 320 3-year olds were marked. From this drive, the seals that were turned away without marking were almost entirely 4 and 5 year olds with a small percentage of 6-year-olds. On June 28 the final drive to obtain the required quota of reserved bachelors was made at Northeast Point, where 114 2-year and 131 3-year olds were marked, filling the required number of 800 for each class on St. Paul Island.

The efficacy of the regulations is apparent in the presence in the drive made June 25 of the large number of half bulls noted above. These seals are the result of the saving in previous years of killable bachelors arising from restrictions placed upon killing by the department, and being now past the killable age will mature as breeding bulls unless they fall victims to pelagic sealing.

The mark made on the animal by shearing off a portion of the hair and fur on top of the head remains readily apparent during the entire summer. In the fall, after the new hair has fully grown, of course, this mark disappears, but the killing of the animal is then prevented by restrictions on the sizes of seals selected for food.

On St. George the quota of 200 of each of the classes named to be branded was obtained before any killing by the lessee was made for skins. On this island sheep shears were used as on St. Paul. The mark on the seals' heads on both islands was similar in appearance and therefore it was not possible to note the volume of migration between the islands as it was in 1904 when shears were used only on St. George and hot irons on St. Paul.

KILLING OF SEALS.

The feature of interest in connection with the killing of seals during the past summer was the unusually large number of bachelors hauling on St. George during the entire summer, coincident with their scarcity on St. Paul during the first half of the season and a rush of 2-year-olds at the latter half. The quota (15,000) was obtained be-

fore the legal end of the lessee's season—on St. George on July 24 and on St. Paul July 28—and it is believed, had sealing been permitted until July 31, at least 1,500 skins additional could have been taken.

Killing by the lessee began immediately after the completion of the marking of bachelors. Owing to the comparatively large number of seals frequenting St. George the quota for the island fixed by the regulations, namely, 2,000, was obtained practically by July 15, while the catch on St. Paul up to July 15 was nearly 2,000 below what it was at the same time the previous year. The abundance of seals on St. George having been reported to me by Maj. Clark with a request that the quota on that island be increased, accordingly, on July 17, I addressed a letter to him, authorizing the taking on St. George of an additional number of 600 skins, by virtue of section 6 of the department's current instructions, at the same time reducing the St. Paul quota by that number.

This action was taken on the assumption that by reason of the scarcity of killables on St. Paul the quota for that island would not be obtained. However, shortly after the reduction stated, killable seals began pouring in upon the hauling grounds of St. Paul, and as mentioned before, the quota for that island was obtained practically on July 28.

NUMBER OF DRIVES.

On St. Paul during the lessee's sealing season 29 drives were made by it for skins, in which the percentage of seals killed to the whole number driven was 68 per cent, varying in several drives from a minimum of 30 to a maximum of 85 per cent. Three drives were made in which the percentage was between 80 and 85; 9 in which the percentage killed was over 70 and under 80; 8 in which the number killed was over 60 and under 70 per cent; 5 in which the killed was over 50 and under 60; 3 drives in which the killed amounted to under 50 and over 40 per cent, and 1 drive in which only 30 per cent was killed.

On St. Paul on July 15 a drive was made from Northeast Point, where the number killed was 1,224, or 75 per cent of all driven; while on July 22, 1,179 skins were taken from Reef and Gorbatch, amounting to 77 per cent of the whole number driven. This is of interest from the fact that not for several years has a drive been made on the islands in which over 1,000 skins were taken.

On St. George, during the season of 1907, 15 drives were made by the lessee, exclusive of 1 made on July 25 by the watchmen at Zapadni and East rookery, in which an average of 138 skins for each drive was made. During the whole season the seals killed on St. George averaged 44 per cent of the whole number driven.

DISMISSALS FROM DRIVES.

During the season of 1907 on St. Paul there were 1,537 small and 2,075 large dismissals from drives, not including 1,533 dismissals of marked bachelors. The large seals dismissed since June 28, when the first drive for skins was made by the lessee, included 697 4-year-olds, 454 5-year-olds, 300 6-year-olds, 79 7-year-olds, and 6 adults.

It is noteworthy that the greatest number of large rejections consisted of 4-year-olds (697), all prime skins, which undoubtedly would have been killed by the lessee but for the prohibition contained in the current regulations. In fact, some of the 5-year-olds had prime skins which would have brought a high price in London.

The marked bachelors dismissed consisted of 869 2-year-olds and 664 3-year-olds. While it is known from the statistics obtained in prior years that the 2-year-olds hauled more frequently than the 3-year-olds, those for 1907 show that the 2-year-olds hauled in that season less often than heretofore. The number of 2-year-olds reserved by marking on St. Paul each season is 800, and a similar number of 3-year-olds. The rejections in marked bachelors for the four years 1904 to 1907 follow:

Year.	Two years.	Three years.
1904	1,320	568
1905	1,005	511
1906	1,012	693
1907	869	664

It can be seen that in 1907 less of the marked 2-year-olds returned than in any other year since this regulation was adopted. This same peculiarity was noted also in the hauling of killable bachelors not marked—that is to say, the killables on St. Paul hauled very slowly until the middle of July, when they came in in such numbers as to furnish the island's quota and to afford two drives in which the number of skins taken was over 1,000 in each case. This, taken in connection with the fact that an unusually large number of bachelors hauled on St. George this summer, indicates that some unusual condition existed which affected the hauling of bachelor seals on the islands.

What this condition was is conjectural. Whether it was some peculiar attribute of weather existing this summer, or some other factor which made the ocean more desirable for the seals than the hauling grounds, can not be told. Perhaps the presence about St. Paul Island of a large fleet of pelagic schooners operating at an unusually early date close to shore, harassing not only the females as they went back and forth to feed, but the bachelors as they wandered without apparent object about the shores of the island, had the effect of changing to a degree their usual hauling habits. I rather incline to believe the latter cause was potent, in view of the fact that St. George, which was practically free from pelagic vessels in its close vicinity, had more bachelors last year than in its history for some years past.

SUFFICIENCY OF RESERVATION FOR BREEDERS.

It can be seen from the foregoing data that in addition to the 1,600 2 and 3 year olds marked and released on St. Paul there were over 1,500 dismissals on that island of small seals released from the killing field. It can be shown that these 1,500 dismissals represent practically as many animals. We have shown, therefore, that in addition to those animals not driven at all there were at least 3,000 young males released from St. Paul Island alone from which to recruit candidates for vacancies in the present supply of breeding bulls. As our

statistics show that in 1907 only 1,122 adult bulls were required on St. Paul to serve cows, it is readily apparent that this year's reservation is ample, not only to preserve the number of the present supply of bulls, but actually to increase it.

ENUMERATION OF SEAL LIFE.

The counting of seals outside of that necessary to determine the number of harems on the rookeries and the size of an average harem on either island ceased upon the appearance in June of pelagic vessels about the islands.

Immediately after my arrival, however, and before schooners were sighted off the island, I made as careful an examination as possible of the bulls stationed before the arrival of the cows. In this examination no aged bulls were found. The greater proportion of those bulls present were young. Of 56 bulls found on Lukanin and Ketovi on June 3, 18 were middle-aged; the remainder were young—8 and 9 year olds. On examination made by Mr. Judge on June 5, Gorbatch and Ardiguen showed 60 bulls present, none of which were aged.

After June 18, however, schooners appeared about the island and all intermediate counting was discontinued. On July 13, 16 harems and idle bulls on the whole island were carefully counted by Mr. Judge and myself and a party of native assistants, while at the end of July the pups on Ketovi were counted for the purpose of ascertaining an average harem to be used as a basis for estimating the whole number of seals on the island. Beyond these counts it was thought unwise to further disturb the rookeries by counting.

NUMBER OF BULLS PRESENT.

From the count made on St. Paul on July 15 the following number of bulls was found:

Rookery.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Water bulls.
Ketovi	46	5	.....	8
Amphitheater	9	2	1	.....
Lukanin	34	1	1	5
Lagoon	15	.....	1	1
Tolstoi Cliffs	30	1	3	2
Tolstoi	99	5	5	12
Northeast Point	247	21	18	20
Little Polovina	14	.....	1	4
Polovina Cliffs	24	1	3	3
Polovina	33	2	6	8
Gorbatch Cliffs	6	.....	2	.....
Gorbatch	105	3	7	6
Reef	216	9	14	16
Zapadni	155	9	9	10
Little Zapadni	68	2	1	4
Zapadni Reef	10	.....	2	1
Ardiguen	11	.....	.....	.....
Total 1907	1,122	61	74	100
Total 1906	1,205	39	41	.....

It can be seen from the above table that on St. Paul there was a decrease in harems in the period from 1906 to 1907 of 83, or 6 per cent. There was an increase, however, of 22 idle bulls and 33 "quitters," or young bulls full grown which, withal, will retreat when approached

by man. In addition to these, 100 bulls were noted along the water front of the rookeries, looking for openings through which they might gain a footing among the cows.

While there was, as already stated, a decrease of 6 per cent in the actual number of harems in 1907, there was an increase in the number of idle bulls and quitters, making a total decrease in full-grown bulls, harem masters, idle, and "quitters" 28, or 2 per cent. When it is considered that the annual decrease for several years past has been in the neighborhood of 20 per cent, the insignificance of the 2 per cent decrease of 1907 is apparent. When we consider further the number of water bulls on the rookery fronts, which, as the season closes, gradually force their way into the rookeries and obtain cows, we can see that there was an actual increase in the total of bulls of all classes on the rookeries on St. Paul.

On St. George the condition as regards bulls was found to be even better than on St. Paul, as an increase was noted in the number of harem bulls actually stationed. In 1906 there was a total of 208 bulls stationed, harem masters and idle, while in 1907 there were 221, an increase of 13 bulls, not counting quitters or the water bulls that flank the rookery from the sea.

This result is gratifying, as it is, undoubtedly, the effect of the first reservation (in 1904) of 2 and 3 year old bachelors, coupled with the abstention from killing of 4 and 5 year old half bulls, which latter afford in many instances valuable skins and which, but for the prohibition of the department, would have been killed by the lessee.

The 3-year-olds reserved in 1904 would be 4 years old in 1905, 5 years old in 1906, and 6 years old in 1907. This class of young males is too young to make full rookery bulls and would, in 1907, be apparent only as hangers-on about the rookeries, either in the rear or on the water front. That numbers of young bulls were observed in 1907 in the localities stated, is good evidence that the 3-year-old reservation of 1904 is present in good numbers and will be stationed on the breeding grounds at the proper time. But the young adult bulls found on the rookeries in 1907 in sufficient numbers to offset the yearly decrease in breeding bulls, and which were at least 7 years old, could not have come from the 3-year-olds of 1904, as they at this time could be only 6 years old. They therefore must have come from the 4 and 5 year olds already mentioned, the killing of which in 1904 was first prohibited. There must have been released enough of these to of themselves meet the annual decrease and to even increase the number of bulls present on St. George.

This being the case, a further increase in harem masters may be expected on the rookeries in 1908, when the regular reservation of 1,000 3-year-olds branded with a hot iron in 1904 may be expected on the rookeries. In fact, several of these, undoubtedly 4 or 5 years old when they were branded, were observed on the rookeries with cows last season. It is not too much to believe that a material increase in bulls will be found on the rookeries in 1908, and that annually thereafter this increase will be augmented by the accession of the reservation made four years previously.

It is regretted that this reservation of young male life for future breeders contains no remedy for the general decrease in seal life, which has been constant for two decades and which furnishes the assurance of a speedy commercial extinction of the animal. It has

been claimed that the primary cause of this decrease has been the lack of virile adult bulls, which, because of this scarcity, failed to fecundate all the cows, and thereby lessened the number of pups born annually. If this theory be correct, the increase in adult bulls in 1907 will result in an increase in the number of pups born in 1908—in other words, that the rookeries from this time on will show a condition of increase. If, however, no increase in pups be found, this theory must fall. It is almost unnecessary to state my belief that no increase in pups will be encountered in 1908.

DECREASE IN BREEDING COWS.

While the number of bulls on the rookeries has increased as the result of the application of regulations of the department, the number of breeding cows has decreased as the result of their being killed at sea by pelagic hunters.

It has been proven and is thoroughly understood that the greater number of seals in the pelagic catch in Bering Sea are breeding females. This is shown by the statistics of the catches of both the Canadian and the American sealing fleets when the latter was allowed by our law to operate. The average proportion of females in the Bering Sea catches is in the neighborhood of 75 per cent. This is due to the fact that the breeding cows are constantly passing to and from the rookeries and the feeding grounds, a distance ranging from 100 to 250 miles, and while on these journeys, and especially while sleeping on the water digesting a mass of fish eaten, they are fair prey for the pelagic hunters. The males, on the contrary, are either stationed on the rookeries or alternate between the hauling grounds and the sea in the immediate vicinity. Numbers of them do not feed at all during the sealing season; the others feed less frequently than the females.

The large pelagic fleet that has surrounded the islands for years past, and notably in the last two, have been more destructive, for the reasons stated, to the breeding females, and this class of seals has diminished steadily and will diminish so long as the fleet is present and active.

COUNTS OMITTED.

The regulations of the department give the agents authority to curtail or to omit altogether the counting of seals on the breeding rookeries, the discretion to be exercised in case of unusual activity on the part of the pelagic schooners.

The pelagic fleet began operations this year sooner than heretofore, vessels entering the sea near June 1 and continuing daily until October. For this reason, as soon as the first schooner was seized (June 15, by the *Perry*) the intermediate daily counting of cows and bulls on the rookeries ceased, as daily disturbance of the rookeries was thought to keep more seals in the water than under normal conditions, and thereby to further increase the pelagic catch.

So also when it became necessary to count live pups near August 1, to establish a basis for computing an average harem, only the pups on Ketovi were counted, instead of probably one-third of all on the island, as heretofore. The counting of these pups involves the driving into the water of all adult seals on the rookery, and it was desirable

that this work should be accomplished by the least possible disturbance of the breeding grounds. While, of course, cows are traveling back and forth from the rookeries to the feeding grounds, under ordinary circumstances, there is always a large number of cows on shore. The driving off of the whole rookery en masse would necessarily send into the water those cows which otherwise would remain on shore and would enormously increase their chances of capture by the fleet.

Ketovi, however, is a rookery which contains harems of a generally uniform size, having neither the large conglomerate masses of cows in which the harems can not be distinguished one from another nor a succession of very small harems, such as can be found elsewhere strung along a rocky beach line. It can therefore fairly be considered as practically typical of an average mass of seals and in this sense serves very well for the purpose of ascertaining the size of an average harem.

A careful count of all the pups on Ketovi, living and dead, on August 2, 1907, by Mr. Judge, assisted by a corps of natives, showed the following:

	Live pups.	Dead pups.
Ketovi	1,607	43
Amphitheater	303	6
Total	1,910	49

The number of harems on this area, as ascertained by the count made near July 15, was 46 on Ketovi and 9 on Amphitheater, or 55 on the entire area. By dividing this number into 1,959, which represents the whole number of pups born in this space in 1907, we obtain an average harem of 35.61 cows, since the whole number of adult cows present is represented by the whole number of pups born.

The whole number of harems on the island ascertained by careful count on or about July 15, 1907, was 1,122. Applying the average harem of 35.61 to this number we have a total of 39,954 breeding cows estimated for the island of St. Paul for 1907.

This, of course, is an estimate, and nothing more is claimed for it. The method used has been the one employed since 1896, and the result is near enough to the actual conditions to give a reliable idea of increase or decrease in seals present. The number actually present will vary in a small degree from that estimated to be present, but that is the drawback in all estimations. We are certain that the counts upon which these estimates are based were made with all possible care and that greater accuracy could not be obtained with the methods used. These figures showing the number of breeding cows on St. Paul are exclusive of the seals on Sea Lion Rock, where probably 45 harems and approximately 1,500 cows were present at the height of the season. This islet lies about one-third of a mile from Reef rookery, St. Paul, and was not visited when harems were counted, for the reason that the weather conditions made it unfavorable for landing there.

On St. George, usually, all the live pups found on the rookeries have been actually counted. This year, however, because of the

increased activity in pelagic sealing, already noted, counting of the entire number of pups was abandoned, and following the method employed on St. Paul only those on North rookery and Little East were enumerated. The number of bulls with cows, of course, was ascertained at the height of the season.

On the two St. George rookeries on which pups were counted the following number of harems was found on July 14, 1907: North, 81; Little East, 7; total, 88.

The pups found on these rookeries by actual count were:

Rookery.	Live.	Dead.
North	4,108	77
Little East	200	2
Total	4,308	79

We can see from this that on an area on which there were 88 harems there were born 4,387 pups, 79 of which were dead. This would indicate an average harem of 49.85. As there were 188 harems found on the entire island, the application to this number of the average harem of 49.85 would show a total of 9,371 pups born on the island, which number also represents the number of breeding cows.

As the number of pups actually counted on St. George represents nearly half of all those found on the island, this average must be considered as very nearly representing actual conditions, and the computation made therefrom very close to the number actually present.

Like Ketovi, on St. Paul, North rookery is typical in its character, containing a succession of good-sized harems without either a mass or a large number of small harems, and furnishes facilities beyond those offered by other rookeries for arriving at a fair average harem.

By the methods outlined we have in 1907 the following number of breeding cows and pups on both islands, including Sea Lion Rock: St. Paul, 39,954; Sea Lion Rock, 1,500; St. George, 9,371; total, 50,825.

DECREASE ON ST. GEORGE SINCE 1906.

On St. Paul in 1906, because of the activity displayed in pelagic sealing, no count of pups was made, for which reason it is impossible to make a comparison between the number of cows present in that year and in 1907. On St. George, however, in 1906, all pups on the island were counted, as has been the practice for years past. Because of the full count in 1906 and the counting of nearly half the entire number in 1907 we are able to make an estimate for St. George of the rate of decrease in breeding females.

The counts for the two years follow: 1906, 11,457; 1907, 9,371; decrease, 2,086.

This shows a decrease on St. George in one year of 2,086 breeding cows, or over 18 per cent. Because of the fact that in 1907 the cows on only 2 rookeries were counted, we have not the means at hand for showing where this decrease occurred. There is, however, a complete count for the two years on North and Little East rookeries, and a comparison of the figures for these two years will prove interesting.

Rookery.	1906	1907	Increase (+) or decrease (−).
North	3,854	4,185	+331
Little East	239	202	[1] − 37

[1] 15 per cent.

These counts were made by Agent Chichester in 1906 and by Agent Clark in 1907. Because of the extremely rough character of North rookery and the numerous hiding places existing there in which pups secrete themselves and from which they have to be dragged by hand, counts of pups on this rookery must necessarily omit a few that are in unaccessible places. With the most careful counting a variation of a hundred or two on this rookery would, from the nature of things, be nothing extraordinary.

The counts of this rookery (North) in 1906 and 1907 show an increase in the latter year of 331 pups. In view of the difficulties of counting enumerated it may be safe to conclude simply that no material decrease, if any, has occurred on this rookery during the year. To lay more stress upon this apparent increase would be unsafe.

The count discloses, however, a decrease of 15 per cent on Little East rookery, which is open enough to insure an accurate count on a small number of pups such as is found there. This shows the same condition that has been noted in years past on St. Paul—namely, that by reason of their gregarious instincts the cows continue to frequent the center or more massed portions of a rookery, abandoning the thinly settled ends.

We must conclude from this that the decrease in breeding cows, which undoubtedly has occurred, is apparent on the small, thinly settled rookery areas, leaving the denser portions to suffer in much less degree.

PERCENTAGE OF DECREASE ON BOTH ISLANDS.

In 1906, because of the activity in pelagic sealing in the close vicinity of St. Paul, counts of pups on the various rookeries of that island were not made, for the first time in years. For this reason accurate data is not at hand to show the number of seals present that year upon which to base a comparison with former years. From the counts of cows, however, made during the season it was ascertained that a decrease had occurred on that island since the previous year of about 20 per cent, and that by this computation there were, in 1906, 52,700 breeding cows present on the St. Paul rookeries. On St. George in 1906 an actual count disclosed the presence of 11,457 newly born pups, indicating an equal number of breeding cows. In 1905, 12,952 pups were counted on the same breeding area on St. George, showing that between 1905 and 1906 a decrease of only 11 per cent in breeding cows had occurred on St. George, while an approximated decrease of 20 per cent had occurred during the same period on St. Paul.

Between 1906 and 1907 the figures herein given show a decrease of 24 per cent in breeding cows on St. Paul and 18 per cent on St. George.

This may be tabulated for the sake of additional clarity:

Island.	Decrease in cows.	
	1906	1907
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*
St. Paul	20	24
St. George	11	18

While there is some difference in the methods of computation of the number of breeding cows in 1906 and 1907, the fact that the rate of decrease in 1907 was greater than in 1906 is perfectly logical when it is considered that the first heavy assault of the Japanese pelagic fleet occurred in the summer of 1906, and the effect of their operations must be apparent in a greater loss in cows than occurred the year previous (1905–6). It is also logical to agree that this loss fell with greater effect upon the St. Paul cows, since the fleet surrounded that island during the whole summer of 1906, while at St. George only 3 pelagic schooners were sighted from land during that whole season. Of course, it must not be claimed that the herds on the two islands are distinct or that they have separate feeding grounds. They undoubtedly mingle on the feeding banks, and there is also more or less of a migration between the two islands. But we must suppose a disposition to return to a certain fixed spot among the cows, which we know to exist among the adult bulls, and as we know that having left a pup on a rookery a cow will return to it we can see that a direct assault on the breeding cows on St. Paul carried on within sight of land or close to its shores must be more fatal to the cows frequenting that island as they pass to and fro to feed than upon the St. George animals, whose route in traveling to the feeding banks probably carried them away from the fleet hovering around St. Paul.

In truth, I am surprised to find the rate of decrease on the two islands so little different. I was prepared, for the reason stated, to expect a much larger decrease on St. Paul and a smaller one on St. George. The fact that they exhibited a difference of only 6 per cent in the rate of decrease between 1906 and 1907 shows that the effects of pelagic sealing are nearly equal on both islands, notwithstanding that St. Paul was practically surrounded by pelagic vessels during the whole summer.

While there are no means at the present time of substantiating any conclusion of that nature, it could happen that the bulk of the Japanese catch was obtained from St. Paul, while the St. George seals contributed in larger degree than their kin on the other island to the catch of the Canadian fleet that operated in 1906 and 1907 mainly to the eastward and about 75 miles away from the islands.

Why St. George seals should suffer heavily from pelagic sealers operating within a few miles of St. Paul, unless the seals from the two islands are commingling profusely in the close vicinity of the latter island, is an interesting question.

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE HAREMS ON TWO ISLANDS.

We have seen that, in 1907, the average harem on St. George was 49.85, while that of St. Paul was 35.61. This difference in the average harem has been observed in past years, that of St. George always being larger than St. Paul.

This would show that either St. George presents conditions more favorable to the cows, thereby attracting thither a larger number in proportion than its neighbor, or that St. Paul for some reason or other attracts more bulls in proportion than St. George. As to the cause of this condition we can only theorize, but whatever the cause it is certain that there is, and has been, a difference between the proportion of cows to bulls on the two islands—that there are more cows to the bull on St. George than on St. Paul.

ESTIMATED NUMBER IN WHOLE HERD.

For various reasons it is desirable to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the number of individuals in the whole herd of seals, and, as the seals are divided by age and sex into various classes, to determine as well the number of individuals in each class. As stated before, it was not wise to disturb the whole mass of breeding cows by counting, in view of the activity in pelagic sealing, and only an estimate of their number was made. There are also other classes, such as yearlings which appear late in the season and mingle with the breeding seals, and bachelors and half bulls which are fluctuating and irregular in their hauling habits, the numbers in which can not be counted. For these reasons it is necessary to simply estimate these latter classes of seals in as careful a manner as possible, basing the estimate on such facts as are at hand relating to their numbers.

ESTIMATE OF HALF BULLS.

In estimating the half bulls we find that the table of rejections of seals from the drives made for skins contains a record of a considerable number of large half-grown male seals, consisting of those dismissed from the killing drives during the summer. In addition to these there were large numbers of the same kind of seals turned away from the drives made for marking reserved bachelors before the killing season began, of which no record was made, as the time of every one was fully occupied in marking the bachelors.

The record of dismissals from the killing drives shows 1,536 large young seals turned away from the drives on St. Paul during the summer, all but 85 of which being between the ages of 4 and 6 years, both inclusive. We know from the number of 3-year-old reserved seals dismissed from drives in 1907 that nearly 20 per cent of those so marked failed to return. If this percentage exists among 3-year-old males, it must prevail to even a greater extent among older males which have not reached the condition of full-grown bulls, but which are nearer that status than 3-year-olds. We must believe, therefore, that this number of 1,536 large seals should be increased by more than 20 per cent to obtain a fair estimate of the size of that class. In 1904, in constructing an estimate of this kind, I increased the number of half bulls dismissed by 50 per cent, which I believe is conservative. By applying this method we would have, on August 1, 1907, on St. Paul Island 2,304 half bulls between the ages of 4 and 6 years, both inclusive.

On St. George, in 1907, 771 large seals were dismissed between the ages of 4 and 6 years, both inclusive. Increasing this by 50 per cent

in the manner in which the St. Paul rejections were treated, gives us a total of 1,155 half bulls on St. George in 1907. For the two islands there would be an estimated total of 3,459 half bulls in 1907.

ESTIMATE OF 2-YEAR-OLDS AND YEARLINGS.

Owing to the fact that the yearlings of both sexes and the 2-year-old cows haul among the breeding seals and young on the rookeries, and are so intermingled therewith that counting them would be an impossibility, even should all be found on land at the same time, there is practically no method of arriving at their numbers save that of following the pups born in preceding years down to the time when they become yearlings or 2-year-olds, applying at the same time such losses as they may be expected to suffer from natural mortality and pelagic sealing. In an estimate, therefore, of the yearlings and 2-year-olds present in 1907 we must proceed on the lines indicated above.

The loss from natural mortality which pups suffer on their initial migrations is quite heavy, owing to the inexperience of the young animals in obtaining food, and to the further fact that being slow and unaccomplished swimmers they must fall prey to their natural enemies more easily than the older animals, which have the power to move rapidly through the water and, therefore, the greater ability to escape their pursuers. A death rate of 50 per cent among pups on their initial migration is therefore a reasonable estimate.

In the case of yearlings on their second migrations, from which they return to the rookeries as 2-year-olds, the loss from natural causes is less than that suffered by the pups, but of necessity must be greater than that of the great mass of adult seals. These migrating yearlings are still immature animals, wanting in experience and physique to properly cope with or escape from their natural enemies. In their case a death rate of 30 per cent has been considered proper and may be used here.

We have next to consider what loss is sustained by migrating pups and yearlings from pelagic sealing. No information on this point could be obtained from the log books of the pelagic sealers, as they make no classification of seals captured save as regards sex. The sealskins taken by them, however, are shipped to London, where, before sale, they are classified in sizes by Lampson & Co., the factors who effect the sale by auction of all the pelagic catch. By an analysis of this classification we are able to determine with reasonable accuracy how many yearlings and 2-year-olds are contained in the catch.

The catalogue furnished by Lampson & Co. covering the catch for 1907 of the British Columbian sealing fleet shows 8,607 sealskins exposed for sale, classified as regards the size of skin, as follows:

Wigs	103
Middlings	179
Middlings and smalls	1,354
Smalls	2,587
Large pups	2,103
Middling pups	1,259
Small pups	723
Extra small pups	233
Extra extra small pups	11
Black pups	55
Total	8,607

The average weight of these sizes has been determined by Lampson & Co., as well as by the agents on the islands. (See S. Doc. No. 98, 59th Cong., 1st sess., p. 88; also proceedings Fur-Seal Arbitration, vol. 8, pp. 916 et seq.). As certain of the sizes of skins do not occur at all in the islands catch, the weights as given by Lampson & Co., are here used, although they do not correspond in every respect with our idea of the average weights of seals of a given age. Opposite these weights I have placed the age of the animals from which they were taken, based on my judgment after having assisted in weighing thousands of skins:

	Weight.		Age.
	Lbs.	*Oz.*	*Years.*
Large wigs	34	0	.....
Small wigs	23	0	.....
Middlings	14	6	6
Middlings and smalls	11	3	5
Smalls	9	8	4
Large pups	8	2	3
Middling pups	6	12	
Small pups	5	10	2
Extra small pups	4	11	
Extra extra small pups	3	13	1
Gray pups	3	0	(1)

[1] Four to five months.

The ages of seals of a given weight marked in the above table are based on an average and are necessarily only approximate. They are stated here solely for the purpose in hand and not as an effort on my part to fix the correct weight of the skins of seals of a certain age. As it is, however, it is close enough to construct an estimate such as we desire.

Of the 8,607 sealskins exposed for sale in London in December, 1907, as the pelagic catch for that year, according to the table given we can see that only 11 skins marked "extra extra small pups" are found. These can not be gray pups because these latter enjoy a separate classification. They can be only yearlings, and they represent only one-tenth of 1 per cent of the entire pelagic catch. It is seen thus that yearlings really represent such an inconsiderable portion of the catch of the sealing schooners that no deduction for the effects of sea killing need be made in an estimate of their number.

This is readily explainable. They can not be taken in the sea during the summer of their birth for the very plain reason that they are on land at that time, or have not yet learned to swim beyond the borders of the rookeries on which they are born. When afterwards in the late fall they do take to the sea for their first migration, pelagic sealing has ceased for the year. They do not encounter it again until the following spring.

In the spring, however, the fleet follows the main body of the herd, composed of adult seals, which are accomplished swimmers and which for this reason have left the slow-moving yearlings far behind. This is indicated plainly by the fact of the arrival of the yearlings at the rookeries six weeks later than the main body of the herd.

Scattered over the eastern portion of the North Pacific, far behind the adults, these youngsters stand in little danger of capture by the sea hunters, who are always in advance of them. That few are so captured is shown by the analysis of the pelagic catch contained in the foregoing table.

From this it can be seen that practically no deduction from the effects of pelagic sealing should be made in any estimate of yearlings. It remains to be seen what loss from this cause should be applied to the estimate of 2-year-olds.

The preceding table shows "small pups" with an average weight of 5 pounds 10 ounces and "extra small pups" weighing 4 pounds 11 ounces. These weights, in my judgment, represent the average range of weights in 2-year-old skins. The London trade sales of pelagic skins for 1907 show that of the first there were 723 skins and of the latter 233 skins, or a total of 956. We can see here, as regards 2-year-olds, a distinct loss at sea, due to the fact that larger numbers of them are able to keep pace with the main body of the herd and therefore more liable to capture by the sea hunters. Contrasting this loss with an estimate of the number of 2-year-olds that might reasonably be believed to exist would fix it in the neighborhood of 10 per cent. In an estimate of these yearlings and 2-year-olds, therefore, we can see from the foregoing that no deduction for pelagic sealing should be made in the case of yearlings and a 10 per cent deduction for the same cause in the case of the 2-year-olds.

NUMBER OF 2-YEAR-OLD COWS IN 1907.

In 1905 it was estimated that 78,836 pups were born that year on the two islands (S. Doc. No. 98, 59th Cong., 1st sess., p. 73). Of these the sexes are accepted to be in equal proportions.

Applying the bases of estimation already mentioned, we would first divide the 78,836 pups into 39,418 females and a like number of males. The hardships of the first migration are supposed to cause these animals a loss of 50 per cent, so that in 1906 the number of yearling cows would be one-half of the 39,418 female pups of the preceding year, or 19,709. There would be also an equal number of yearling males.

These yearlings of 1906 on their next migration, as stated, suffer an estimated loss of 30 per cent from natural causes and a 10 per cent loss from pelagic sealing, at the end of which they arrive at the islands as 2-year-olds. By this method we find that in 1907 there were 11,826 2-year-old cows and an equal number of 2-year-old bachelors.

NUMBER OF 2-YEAR-OLD MALES.

From the above estimate of cows we can see that at the beginning of the season of 1907 approximately 12,000 2-year-old males were in existence, from which during the summer as demonstrated by the weights of skins taken on the islands nearly 10,000 were killed by the lessee. This estimate would show practically 2,000 2-year-old males present at the close of the season of 1907, of which 1,000 had been marked and reserved by the agents.

This estimate, however, errs on the side of too great conservatism. As stated elsewhere in this report, seals were so plentiful toward the end of the season that probably 1,500 more than the quota could have been taken. Of this 1,500, some undoubtedly would have been 3-year-olds, as the presence of the latter was apparent in the drives in some numbers up to the end of the season. In view of the undoubted number of 2-year-olds present after sealing was over, I

would feel safe in adding to the above estimate of 2-year-old females and males as well 1,000 additional to each class, believing that this action is justified by the appearance of the bachelor herd at the close of the sealing season of 1907.

FINAL ESTIMATE OF 2-YEAR-OLDS.

We have therefore as a final estimate of 2-year-olds present at the close of the season of 1907, 12,826 2-year-old females and 3,000 2-year-old males.

ESTIMATE OF 3-YEAR-OLDS.

In addition to the 1,000 3-year-olds marked and released in 1907 for breeding purposes, an analysis of the catch for that year based on the weights of sealskins taken during the summer shows that over 4,000 3-year-olds were killed. This showing indicates that over 5,000 of these animals were handled during the season.

The record of dismissals of the marked 3-year-olds on St. Paul Island showed that only four-fifths of the number so marked afterwards hauled out. We are safe in assuming that the 5,000 hauled represent at most only four-fifths of all the 3-year-olds in the herd. By this method we could increase the 5,000, which represents 80 per cent of the whole number, by an additional 20 per cent, or 1,250, making 6,250 as an estimate of the whole number of 3-year-olds in the herd at the beginning of the season of 1907. Of these, as we have seen, 4,000 were killed, leaving 2,250 remaining at the close of the season.

ESTIMATE OF YEARLINGS.

On both islands in 1906, it is estimated, 63,933 pups were born exclusive of those found dead on St. George. These pups of 1906 form the yearlings of 1907.

Of the 63,933, a 50 per cent death rate would allow only 31,966 yearlings to return in 1907, of which one-half, or 15,983, would be females and a similar number males.

SUMMARY OF SEAL LIFE IN 1907.

From such counts as were made during the summer and the calculations based thereon, which have been detailed heretofore, the following summary of seal life on the Pribilof Islands at the close of the season of 1907 may be constructed:

Active bulls with harems	1,210
Idle bulls, including "quitters"	168
Half bulls	3,459
3-year-old bachelors	2,250
2-year-old bachelors	3,000
Yearling bachelors	15,983
Breeding cows	50,825
2-year-old cows	12,826
Yearling cows	31,966
New-born pups	50,825
Total	172,512

RELATION OF CATCH TO WHOLE HERD.

It has been shown that the number of breeding females, from which the increment to the herd is derived, has been decreased materially in the last three years as the effects of greater activity in pelagic sealing. With this fact established, it would, on the face of things, raise the question why, in spite of the great reduction of the females, the catch of young males should be maintained at the same figure during these years.

This question can be answered readily, and the answer is contained in the fact of the enforcement during these years of the department's regulations restricting killing on the islands. Because of these restrictions a number of small seals have been allowed to escape each year, which but for these regulations would have been killed by the lessee. These small seals, returning the next year as prime eligibles, constituted what might be termed an additional increment to the natural one resulting from the maturity into killables of the yearlings of the year previous.

In other words, previous to the adoption of these restrictive regulations the lessee had been anticipating its next year's catch by killing nearly all those small-sized 2-year-olds, from which the next year the company would obtain its supply of 3-year-old skins. Prior to 1905 it had, in fact, few 3-year-old skins in its catch, because it had killed the 2-year-olds as closely as possible each preceding year. By the restrictive effect of the regulations large numbers of these small 2-year-old male seals are allowed to go over to the following year, when, being killed as 3-year-olds, they cause the presence in the company's catch of some thousands more 3-year-old skins than would be obtained were the 2-year-olds killed closely.

This can be seen readily by consulting the following table, compiled from the statistics of rejections from drives since 1903, the year before the adoption of the so-called restrictive regulations:

Year.	Large.	Small.	Marked or "branded."
1903	912	1,185	.....
1904	641	8,019	2,162
1905	934	7,625	2,663
1906	2,040	[1] 4,727	2,490
1907	2,941	[2] 2,483	2,285

[1] In 1906 the limit of small skins was reduced from 5½ to 5 pounds.
[2] On St. Paul in 1907 sealing was practically over on July 27, and on St. George on July 25. Had sealing been carried on until July 31, as usual, the number of small rejections would have been much larger, as these animals were present in large numbers at the end of the season.

From a scrutiny of this table it will appear that in the first year of these so-called prohibitive regulations (1904) over 10,000 rejections of small seals occurred, whereas the year before there were less than 1,200. It stands to reason that because of this great number of rejections the lessee's take of skins for that year was curtailed materially. In fact, the catch of 1904 was over 6,000 less than the preceding year. But it is also a fact that in 1904 a large reserve of 2-year-olds was created from which the lessee might expect, and did actually derive,

a greatly augmented catch of 3-year-olds the following year, or 1905. This same reserve of 2-year-olds was maintained in 1905—over 10,000—from which the lessee could get its 3-year-old skins in 1906. In 1906, while the limit of small sealskins to be taken was lowered by the department from 5½ to 5 pounds, yet in this year nearly 5,000 small seals were released in addition to the 2,000 marked as breeders. What number of small seals failed to haul up and be counted during this time we do not know, but we are certain that by means of this reserve derived from the savings of young males in previous years the company's catch in 1907 was maintained at the same figure, regardless of the contemporaneous slaughter and diminution occurring among the breeding cows. At first glance it would appear that the reserve of young seals maintained in previous years was materially lessened in 1907, as in that year the table shows only 2,483 small seals dismissed as against over 4,700 the year previous. While our statistics of killings show that the lessee killed closer in 1907 than in 1906, it must be remembered that sealings in 1907 was practically finished on St. George on July 25 and on St. Paul on July 27. Had the usual number of drives been made on the islands between July 25 and 31, in 1907, thousands of small seals (which come in rapidly at the end of the season) would have been driven up and turned away, with the result not only of materially increasing the record of rejections from drives but of lowering as well the percentage of seals killed during the season.

If it is doubted that the regulations of the department since 1904 have been efficacious in providing young male life to replenish the diminishing stock of active bulls on the rookeries, one has only to turn to the table just given to see that the rejections in 1907 of young males too large for killing exceeded those of 1904 by about 360 per cent (641 in 1904, 2,941 in 1907). In addition to this fact it has been shown previously that the decrease in male life on the rookeries practically was checked in 1907, and that there is an estimated breeding reserve at present of over 3,400 young bulls—nearly three times as many as are now occupied with harems.

EXPEDIENCY OF PROVIDING LARGE RESERVE OF MALES.

It is, of course, true that the number of adult bulls on the rookeries has until 1907 been steadily decreasing, due to the fact that the accession of young male life escaping from the killing fields until recently has not been sufficient to offset the loss of old bulls from natural mortality and pelagic sealing.

With the existence, however, of a large reserve of young male life created by restrictions placed on the killing of immature bachelors the question is presented whether or not it is good policy to maintain this reserve in larger numbers than necessary to meet the demands of the breeding herd.

Enough seals in my opinion should be spared from the killing field to insure against any decrease in bulls. After that is done, however, I would recommend that every seal that can be killed on land under existing law and regulations be taken.

From present indications the end of pelagic sealing will be reached only when it is unprofitable for the schooners to longer engage in the business. Under this assumption, the sooner the herd is reduced to

a minimum the sooner the question will be settled. It would seem therefore the best policy to reduce the seals which can be killed under existing law to as small a number as advisable. Under no circumstances should it be considered the part of wisdom to exempt from slaughter a larger number of males than are necessary to keep up the proper proportion in numbers between the breeding males and females. With a rapidly diminishing herd of females, a smaller number of bulls will be required.

The releasing on the islands of any killable male not required for future procreative purposes is just so much encouragement for the pelagic hunter to continue in the business of killing seals in the water. Such encouragement should not be offered by this Government.

PELAGIC SEALING.

The industry of killing seals in the water from small boats transported by schooners of low tonnage was engaged in actively during the past summer. The schooners employed approximated 50, of which about 35 were Japanese and 15 Canadian.

Due to the activity of the revenue cutters on patrol duty, and the probable effect of the arrest of raiders on the island the previous summer, no attempts to raid the breeding rookeries on the islands were noted. Three schooners belonging to the Japanese fleet were seized by the revenue cutters *Manning* and *Perry* for having small boats within the 3-mile limit taking seals. One of these schooners after being towed to Unalaska was released on the ground of insufficient evidence. The other two, however, after being taken to Unalaska were held there under guard, while the crews were transported by the revenue cutter *Manning* to Valdez for trial, at which such of the crew were convicted as were concerned in the offense for which they were apprehended. The remainder of the crews were released.

In addition to the seizures above mentioned, a pelagic schooner was seized by the revenue cutter *Rush* in southeastern Alaskan waters for a violation of the provisions of the Paris award.

The operations of the pelagic fleet about the islands began earlier this year than formerly. The first vessel sighted from the islands was the one seized by the *Perry* and towed into the village anchorage June 15. After that, with but few exceptions, schooners were sighted daily from the islands, on one day 12 and on another 23 schooners being visible from the island of St. Paul. The schooners seemed to be active only in the vicinity of St. Paul, a few only being found around St. George.

VIOLATIONS OF LAW.

While on the high seas, even in the vicinity of the islands, foreign vessels are not amenable to the laws of the United States, yet within the territorial limit surrounding the islands they are clearly subject to all laws passed by this Government for the protection of the seal fisheries.

Notwithstanding the careful and zealous patrol by the United States revenue cutters several instances of violations of law by pelagic sealers came under the notice of the guards at the islands. While the nationality of the persons engaged in these violations was not discovered, there is strong probability that they were Japanese.

On June 25, during a trip of the patrolling vessel around the island three small boats from pelagic schooners were seen shooting close to Otter Island, 6 miles away from St. Paul. The smoke from their guns at each discharge could plainly be seen through glasses from St. Paul. After shooting for some time and pulling their boats back and forth in the water, the crews of two of the small boats landed on Otter Island, where they remained only a short time, probably finding no seals there. They could be seen to enter the watchhouse on that island.

On June 28, during a thick fog, shotgun firing was heard close to shore at Northeast Point.

On June 30, with thick fog, gun firing was continuous in Southwest Bay from noon until 6 p. m. After that hour until 9 p. m. cannon shots were heard at intervals. From the plainness with which shots could be heard it was evident that a number of small boats were operating close to shore within the 3-mile limit, but, owing to dense fog, neither schooners nor small boats could be seen from shore.

On July 1, still in a dense fog, this firing was continued close to shore, but nothing of the poachers could be seen.

On July 2 seven small boats were operating within one-half mile of Northeast Point.

On July 3 a small boat approached within one-half mile of Reef rookery.

On July 4 two schooners were seized by the cutter *Manning* for having boats taking seals within the 3-mile limit.

On July 18 six boats were found by watchmen well within the 3-mile limit at Northeast Point, operating within 400 yards of shore. On discovery by the guard they made off as rapidly as possible. On this date three Japanese sailors made their way into the village, having landed on North Shore. They claimed to have been shipwrecked, but probably were deserters from their schooners.

On July 26, two boats were found rowing directly for Northeast Point rookery. Their object apparently was to land. They came in so close that the guard fired three warning shots, upon which the boats turned about and pulled away.

The fact that these violations of law occurred is no reflection upon the vigilance of the revenue cutters or patrol. It must be remembered that St. Paul Island has approximately 50 miles of shore line and to circumnavigate it requires from five to seven hours. While the cutter is at one end of the island on patrol it was no hard matter for the crews of small boats at the other end to slip inside the 3-mile limit and operate there for an hour or two. Then, again, it became necessary at certain times for one cutter to patrol both islands, necessitating its absence from one island for a day or two, during which the pelagic sealers could, and on certain occasions did, approach the island closely. Furthermore, in dense fog, which prevails largely in summer, navigation among the reefs and currents about the islands is dangerous in the extreme and patrol vessels must proceed cautiously, while a sealing schooner with light tonnage and wooden bottom may come in close with little danger. From the action of the pelagic hunters during the summer it must be believed that they watch closely the movements of the vessels on patrol and are quick to take advantage of every move on their part.

LANDING OF THREE JAPANESE.

On July 18 three Japanese sailors were found within a mile of the village making their way thereto on the main road leading to and from Northeast Point. They had quite heavy packs on their backs, composed of changes of clothing, ammunition box with shotgun shells loaded and empty, two shotguns, compass, etc. They could not speak English, but made signs to indicate that they had landed on the north shore, and made their way overland thence in the direction of Polovina, until finally they reached the village. They made signs that they desired food.

With the aid of the Chinese cook, who could partially understand written Japanese characters, it was made out that the three men were from the Japanese schooner *Eun Maru*, and that they complained of illtreatment on board. They stated that they left their rowboat, in which they landed, on the north shore. They were given a vacant native house in which to live, and provisions and bedding.

Watchmen sent to the north shore reported that the boat was there in the place indicated by the Japanese. It contained six oars, six rowlocks, one sail, one water cask (full), one bottle of water, one long pole with three hooks, two raincoats, and one sou'wester.

Two days afterwards the revenue cutter *Perry* came in, and at my request Capt. Dunwoody readily agreed to take the three Japanese off the island, which was done that evening. The cutter afterwards at their request delivered these sailors on board another sealing schooner than the one they stated they belonged to.

CATCH OF PELAGIC FLEETS.

Statistics received by the State Department indicate that the catch of the British Columbian fleet for the season of 1907 was 5,397 skins, of which 1,934 were taken on the British Columbian coast, 448 outside the award area, 2,858 in Bering Sea, and a canoe catch stated at 157. The vessels engaged numbered 15 on the northwest coast, 3 outside the award area, and 9 in Bering Sea. In the above catch 15 branded sealskins were taken. In addition to the sealskins 2 schooners captured 38 sea otters.

The British Columbia catches for two years previous, as reported by the State Department, are as follows:

1906	10,370
1905	14,177

On December 17, 1907, Lampson & Co. exposed for sale in London 8,607 northwest coast sealskins, which were classified as stated in a preceding table.

The catch as reported to the State Department and the figures of the London trade sales for the northwest coast catch show a difference of 3,210 sealskins. Whether this difference represents skins actually taken by the Canadian sealers not reported to their customhouses, whether it represents miscellaneous shore catches which are only partially reported, or whether held over from previous years and exposed for sale in 1907 it is impossible to state.

Reliable estimates made by United States consular agents in Japan show the Japanese pelagic catch for 1907 to be 10,505 fur-seal skins, as opposed to 10,515 in 1906. In 1907, 36 vessels were engaged, as

against 31 in 1906. Of the 1907 catch, 1,723 skins were taken in the so-called spring catch off the Asiatic coast, while 8,782 skins were taken in the summer catch in Bering Sea, nearly all of which were from the Pribilof herd. In addition to the catch of sealskins in 1907, 39 sea-otter skins were taken in a raid on the Commander Islands, where, in 1906, 37 were taken by the same methods.

The report states further that three Japanese schooners raided the Commander Islands, as a result of which 12 Japanese prisoners were taken by the Russians. These prisoners, it is stated, were released to a Japanese cruiser as the result of threats by the latter. It is stated also that a schooner named the *Saikai Maru* raided the Pribilofs, obtaining 62 fur-seal skins without detection. No knowledge of this raid, however, is had by anyone on either island.

On January 24, 1908, Lampson & Co. exposed for sale in London "7,429 salted fur seal, N. W. Coast, etc.," in addition to those northwest coast skins sold December 17 previous, already mentioned. It is probable that these skins represent the Japanese catch from the Pribilof herd. They were classified according to size, as follows:

Wigs	34
Middlings	44
Middlings and smalls	974
Smalls	1,946
Large pups	1,875
Middling pups	1,390
Small pups	835
Extra small pups	265
Extra extra small pups	14
Black pups	52
Total	7,429

REVENUE-CUTTER PATROL.

As before stated, the patrol about the islands by the Revenue-Cutter Service was active and zealous.

While at the first part of the season a cutter was on guard at each island, later, when the *Manning* left for the eastward with her prisoners, it became necessary for one cutter to patrol both islands while its relief went to Unalaska for coal and water. It is a significant fact that such violations of law by pelagic sealers as came under our notice occurred while the patrolling vessel was necessarily absent elsewhere, either at the other island or patrolling a different locality of St. Paul. It would indicate the willingness of pelagic sealers to risk capture by approaching shore and sealing in prohibited waters when they believe the cutter is far enough away for them to avoid detection. This seeming characteristic of the sealers to take all sorts of chances for a skin or two indicates plainly that but for the presence of the patrol vessels raids on the rookeries would have been attempted.

For this reason it is urgently recommended that no decrease in the number of patrolling vessels be made during the coming season, but that, if possible, it be even augmented. The withdrawal of any vessel from the number usually on patrol would be simply an invitation to the pelagic sealers to raid the rookeries.

I desire to express here my appreciation of the zeal and efficiency displayed by all of the officers and men engaged in the duty of patrolling the seal islands during the past summer.

Considerable difficulty was experienced last summer through the lack of a committing officer of the Department of Justice at Unalaska where any prisoners arrested in Bering Sea for a violation of the laws protecting the fur seals necessarily must be taken. In the case of those arrested by the *Manning* for poaching within the 3-mile limit, it became necessary, for lack of a committing officer, for the *Manning* to proceed with the prisoners to Valdez, thereby removing her from the patrol for practically the remainder of the season. I understand, however, that since last summer a commissioner for Unalaska has been appointed.

In view of the many delicate points of law arising in the arrests of foreigners and seizures of foreign vessels for violations of our sealing laws, I would recommend that an assistant United States attorney be stationed at Unalaska during the summer to advise the United States commissioner and generally to supervise the procuring of evidence against such persons as may be found subject to commitment.

AFFAIRS OF NATIVE INHABITANTS.

The affairs of the native inhabitants on the two islands have been carefully managed during the past winter by the Government agents stationed there. On St. Paul systematic regrading and improvement of the roads in the village and vicinity were accomplished under the direction of Agent Judge. Furthermore, a large building was constructed on St. Paul by Mr. Judge and the natives out of lumber taken from the old church when it was demolished, to be used as a shop for the natives, where also they may have their meetings, dances, and other secular gatherings. This building, constructed, as I have said, out of old lumber, is carefully and solidly built, and reflects credit on all concerned.

Too much could not be said by both Agents Judge and Chichester, who spent the last winter there, in commendation of the general deportment of the native men and their disposition to observe not only the law, but the social and moral proprieties as well. While, according to time-honored custom, certain of them made "quass" on their important church holidays and "name days," they were temperate in its use, and its consumption entailed no disorder. An organization among the native men for the suppression of social disorder was successfully operated during the past winter and marks a distinct step in the advancement of the people.

CENSUS OF NATIVE INHABITANTS.

The census of native inhabitants on St. Paul, taken June 30, 1907, shows 170 residents, of which 90 were males and 80 females. During the year 9 births and 6 deaths occurred. The above figures show a net gain in the population of 3 individuals over the preceding census.

On St. George on June 30, 1907, there were present 93 native residents, of which 44 were males and 49 females—a net gain of 2 over the census of the year before. On this island 7 births and 5 deaths occurred during the year.

The combined population of both islands for 1907, taken from the foregoing, would be 263, of whom 134 are males and 129 females—a net gain on the two islands over the preceding census of 4 individuals.

EARNINGS OF NATIVES.

On St. Paul for the season ended July 31, 1907, $9,294 was earned from the lessee by the 44 native sealers through their taking and properly curing 12,384 fur-seal skins, at 75 cents each, and 3 sea-lion skins, at $2 each. This sum was divided among the several native workmen according to their respective classifications, and the proper credits therefor entered on the books of the lessee company.

On St. George 24 native men earned $1,838 through their taking, during the winter of 1906–7, 366 blue-fox skins, at $5 each, and 8 white-fox skins, at $1 each. At the close of the sealing season of 1907—July 31 of that year—they had earned $1,835.75 by securing 2,581 fur-seal skins, at 75 cents each. As in the case of St. Paul, these sums were divided among the several natives according to the classification agreed upon by the natives under the general supervision of the Government agents.

GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION.

After deducting the cost of 240 tons of coal, at $20 per ton, to be delivered in the spring of 1908, the remainder of the appropriation of $19,500 for the fiscal year 1908 was divided between the two islands in the proportion of $9,300 for St. Paul and $5,400 for St. George.

FOXES.

During the winter of 1906–7, 869 blue and 8 white foxes passed through the traps on St. George Island, of which 375 were killed—226 blue males, 141 blue females, 4 white males, and 4 white females. Of those killed, the lessee accepted 366 blue and 8 white. There were released for breeding purposes 232 blue males and 270 blue females. These latter, as reported by Agent Chichester, were the cream of the herd, no fox being released as a breeder that was over 3 years of age and only 6 animals that were under the standard weight of 10 pounds for males and 7½ pounds for females. These foxes were trapped in a large house trap, having a wire inclosure outside containing food, into which the foxes are induced to enter through a trapdoor sprung at will by the operator. They are then picked up by hand, weighed, and examined for sex, etc., and released or killed on the judgment of the Government agent. Those released are marked by cutting with scissors a ring around the fur in the animal's brush, the mark of the males differing from that of the females, so that the sexes afterwards may be distinguished when the animals are at large.

During the winter, when the natural food for foxes is scarce, artificial food, such as salted fish freshened by soaking in water and carcasses of seals killed during the summer and preserved in pits, are given to them daily in such quantity as will insure a residue after they have eaten their fill. It has been determined by the investigations into fox life on the island by Government agents that, epidemics barred, the food supply regulates the rise and fall of the numbers of the fox herd on St. George.

I inclose herewith a report from Assistant Agent Chichester dealing in detail with the fox question on St. George as observed by him during the winter of 1906–7. In this report I desire to call particular atten-

tion not only to the thoroughness of the work incident to handling the foxes, but to the authentic instance cited of paired foxes jointly engaged in feeding and guarding the same litter of young.

GUARDING THE ROOKERIES.

The three Gatling and five Hotchkiss guns, with the small arms and ammunition, sent by the Government for the better protection of the rookeries, arrived on the islands at the time of my departure therefrom last August. I have since learned from Assistant Agent Judge that the artillery has been assembled and prepared for service and that systematic target practice is being engaged in with small arms.

DIVISION OF GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION.

The appropriation of $19,500 for natives' support during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907, was apportioned as follows:

St. Paul	$9,300
St. George	5,400
Coal for both islands	4,800
Total	19,500

This sum will be expended for necessaries of life for the native inhabitants upon orders drawn upon the lessee company by the resident Government agents.

PRESENCE OF U. S. CRUISER "BUFFALO."

The U. S. cruiser *Buffalo* arrived at the islands on patrol duty during the latter part of August, after my departure for Washington.

The cruiser alternately patrolled the 60-mile limit and cruised in the close vicinity of the islands to deter possible raids on the rookeries. While no raids were made, her presence was highly valuable as a restraining influence on the pelagic fleet. I trust that the Government will insure her return during the coming season.

Both Agents Judge and Clark, on St. Paul and St. George, respectively, speak highly of the courtesies extended to them by Capt. C. F. Pond, of the *Buffalo*, in the matter of mail facilities and offers of transportation, and request that suitable acknowledgment thereof be made to the Navy Department.

Respectfully submitted.

W. I. Lembkey,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

To Hon. Oscar S. Straus,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

EXHIBIT 1.—*Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1907.*

Date.	Rookery.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.						Number of seals killed by lessees for skins.					Aggregate.		
		Large young seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Skins rejected.			Accepted.	Rejected.			Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
					Under size.	Stagey.	Cut.	Prime.	Under size.	Cut.	For other reasons.				
1906.															
Aug. 8	Over and under size skins on hand	107	107	[1] 107									107		107
9	Reef	116	116	116									116		116
17	Food skins to date (watch)	26	26	26									26		26
Oct. 22	Reef	112	112	112									112		112
29	Middle Hill	122	122	119	1		2						119	3	122
Nov. 5	Reef	173	173	169	2		2						169	4	173
14	Northeast Point	139	139	138	1								138	1	139
23	Reef and Tolstoi	203	203	201	2								201	2	203
29	Reef	198	198	194	2		2						194	4	198
Dec. 20	Sea Lion Rock	226	226	224			2						224	2	226
1907.															
Jan. 14	Autumn food skins, Northeast Point (guard)	6	6	5			1						5	1	6
29	Sea Lion Rock	6	6	6									6		6
May 12	....do	105	105	102	1	2							102	3	105
28	Reef	106	106	104	2								104	2	106
June 28	Northeast Point							397	2	1	[2] 1	401	397	4	401
29	Tolstoi							90	2	1		93	90	3	93
July 1	Zapadni							204		2		206	204	2	206
2	Reef and Gorbatch							558	1	5		564	558	6	564
3	Northeast Point							553		3		556	553	3	556
3	Halfway Point							46				46	46		46
5	Zapadni							249			[2] 2	251	249	2	251
6	Reef and Gorbatch							515		1		516	515	1	516
6	Tolstoi							120		3		123	120	3	123
8	Northeast Point							394				394	394		394
10	Reef and Gorbatch							443		2		445	443	2	445
11	Zapadni							351		2		353	351	2	353
13	Tolstoi							218	1	4	[3] 1	224	218	6	224
15	Northeast Point							1,221	1	2		1,224	1,221	3	1,224

15	Halfway Point							19				19	19		19
16	Reef and Gorbatch							771		8	[3] 3	782	771	11	782
17	Zapadni							318		1	[3] 2	321	318	3	321
18	Tolstoi							71				71	71		71
20	Northeast Point							485		1		486	485	1	486
20	Halfway Point							114		2		116	114	2	116
22	Reef and Gorbatch							1,165	5	9		1,179	1,165	14	1,179
22	Tolstoi							38				38	38		38
23	Zapadni							296		1	[3] 3	300	296	4	300
25	Northeast Point							854		2	[3] 2	858	854	4	858
25	Halfway Point							94		1	[3] 1	96	94	2	96
26	Reef and Gorbatch							622		2	[3] 3	627	622	5	627
26	Tolstoi							60				60	60		60
27	Zapadni							348		1		349	348	1	349
29	Reef							55		2		57	55	2	57
	Total	1,645	1,645	1,623	11	2	9	10,669	12	56	18	10,755	12,292	108	12,400

[1] Delivery authorized by D. L. Apr. 15, 1907.

Large.

[3] Bitten.

EXHIBIT 2.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 18, 1907.

This is to certify that 12,384 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

Shipper's load and count. All on board to be discharged.

A. DONALDSON, *Master Steamer "Homer."*

EXHIBIT 3.—*Receipt for lease coal, St. Paul, 1907.*

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 13, 1907.*

Received from the North American Commercial Co. 50 tons of coal (2,240 pounds to the ton), as part of the 80 tons which said company, by the terms of its lease dated March 12, 1890, agreed to deliver free each year for use of the native inhabitants of the seal islands.

In accepting this receipt, executed in quintuplicate before this coal has been weighed, the said North American Commercial Co. hereby agrees to make good, from its own supply on the islands, any shortage that may appear after said coal has been weighed.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

J. C. REDPATH,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

EXHIBIT 4.—*Receipt for natives' coal, St. Paul, 1907.*

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 13, 1907.*

Received from the North American Commercial Co. 200 tons of coal (2,240 pounds to the ton), contracted for by the Department of Commerce and Labor, as per letter of instructions to agent in charge dated April 15, 1907, for use of the natives on St. Paul Island, to be paid for at the rate of $20 per ton from the appropriation for "food, fuel, and clothing and other necessaries of life to the native inhabitants on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska, 1907."

In accepting this receipt, executed in quintuplicate before this coal has been weighed, the said North American Commercial Co. hereby agrees to make good, from its own supply on the islands, any shortage that may appear after said coal has been weighed.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

J. C. REDPATH,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

EXHIBIT 5.—*Record of weights of sealskins taken on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the season ended July 31, 1907.*

Weight.	Number.	Weight.	Number.
Pounds.		*Pounds.*	
3¾	1	6¾	1,370
4	3	7	1,170
4¼	2	7¼	904
4½	15	7½	852
4¾	2	7¾	554
5	233	8	283
5¼	375	8¼	199
5½	615	8½	175
5¾	1,066	9¼	2
6	1,278	9¾	3
6¼	1,316	10	1
6½	1,579	10½	1

NOTE.—The number of skins taken on St. Paul during the year under 5 pounds and over 8½ pounds number 28, composed of 23 small and 5 large. Of these, 11 small and 2 large were taken during the food drives made by the Government agents. These have not been included in the number of prohibited skins on which shipment was refused. The number so retained, taken by the lessee, was 15 skins, of which 12 were small and 3 large.

EXHIBIT 6.—*Division of natives' earnings, St. Paul Island, Alaska, season of 1907.*

By 12,384 fur-seal skins, at 75 cents		$9,288.00
By 3 sea-lion skins, at $2		6.00
Total		9,294.00
To 22 first-class shares, at $253.95	$5,586.90	
To 9 second-class shares, at $203.20	1,828.80	
To 9 third-class shares, at $152.40	1,371.60	
To 4 fourth-class shares, at $101.65	406.60	
To 2 special shares, at $50.05	100.10	
Total		9,294.00

First-class shares, 22 men, at $253.95 each:

Alex. Melovidoff.	George Kotchergin.
Karps Buterin.	John Kochutin.
Jacob Kochutin.	Alex. Merculieff.
Nicoli Krukoff.	Parfiri Pankoff.
Simeon Melovidoff.	Elary Stepetin.
Simeon Nozekoff.	Neon Tetoff.
Theo. Sedick.	J. E. Orloff.
Dorofay Stepetin.	John Krukoff.
John Stepetin.	George Shisenikoff.
Apollon Bourdukofsky.	Peter Tetoff.
Nicoli Bogadanoff.	Necon Shabolin.

Second-class shares, 9 men, at $203.20:

Peter Bourdukofsky.	Michael Kozloff.
Michael Kushin.	Metrofan Krukoff.
Innokenty Sedick.	John Merculieff.
Stepan Rookavishnikoff.	Zahar Tetoff.
Nicoli Gromoff.	

Third-class shares, 9 men, at $152.40:

Alex. Galaktioneff.	Nekita Hopoff.
Constantine Buterin.	Nicoli Kozloff.
Vlass Pankoff.	Theo. Kochutin.
Trefan Kochutin.	Paul Koshevnikoff.
John Fratis.	

Fourth-class shares, 4 men, at $101.65:

Ivanally Kozeroff.	Condrat Krukoff.
John Mazeekin.	Paul Merculieff.

Special class, 2 men, at $50.05 each:

Karp Buterin, first chief.	Alex. Merculieff, second chief.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 4, 1907.*

I hereby certify that the above division was made by me, in the manner detailed above, after conference with the native chiefs on this island.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 4, 1907.*

I hereby certify that the amounts, as above stated, representing the division on St. Paul Island for the season of 1907, will be placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By J. C. REDPATH, *Superintendent.*

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 4, 1907.*

We hereby approve the division for St. Paul Island for the season of 1907, as detailed above, for and on behalf of the natives of said island.

his
KARP x BUTERIN, *First Chief,*
mark.
By W. I. LEMBKEY.
ALEX. MERCULIEF, *Second Chief.*

EXHIBIT 7.—*Census of St. Paul Island, Alaska, year ended June 30, 1907.*

Name.	Relation.	Age
Bogadanoff, Nicoli	Husband	35
Bogadanoff, Uleta	Wife	40
Bogadanoff, Agrafina	Niece	10
Bourdukofsky, Apollon	Father	54
Bourdukofsky, Peter	Son	28
Buterin, Karp	Husband	53
Buterin, Parascovia	Wife	51
Buterin, Constantine	Son	21
Mazeekin, Wassalisa	Adopted daughter	12
Fratis, John	Husband	21
Fratis, Sandulia	Wife	17
Fratis, Gavriel	Son	1
Galaktioneff, Alex	Husband	35
Galaktioneff, Lukeria	Wife	30
Galaktioneff, Mary	Daughter	5
Galaktioneff, Matrona	do	4
Galaktioneff, Aggie	Son	1
Hanson, Anna	Stepdaughter	7
Gromoff, Nicoli	Husband	39
Gromoff, Ulianna	Wife	37
Stepetin, Pavla	Adopted daughter	15
Stepetin, Elary, jr	Adopted son	6
Volkoff, Tecan	Orphan	14
Kochutin, Jacob	Husband	55
Kochutin, Alexandria	Wife	45
Kochutin, Larion	Son	14
Mandregan, Innokenty	Orphan	16
Mandregan, Nekifer	do	11
Kochutin, John	Husband	36
Kochutin, Claudia	Wife	27
Kochutin, Nikanor	Son	6
Kochutin, Erena	Daughter	4
Kochutin, Nicoli	Son	[1] 6
Vickaloff, Alexander	Stepson	9
Kochutin, Theodore	Husband	19
Kochutin, Mary	Wife	21
Kochutin, Karp	Son	2
Kochutin, Trefan	Husband	22
Kochutin, Natalia	Wife	27
Hopoff, Nekita	Bachelor	19
Kushin, Mary	Widow	
Kushin, Nestor	Cousin	
Hanson, John	do	11
Kotchergin, George	Husband	29
Kotchergin, Agafia	Wife	27
Tetoff, Peter	Adopted son	5
Kozloff, Michael	Son	21
Kozloff, Parascovia	Mother	48
Serebrinikoff, Ripsimia	Cousin	14
Kozloff, Nicoli	Husband	19
Kozloff, Alexandria	Wife	26
Melovidoff, Alexandria	Niece	5
Koshevnikoff, Paul	Husband	23
Koshevnikoff, Mary	Wife	33
Krukoff, John	Husband	27
Krukoff, Uleta	Wife	23
Krukoff, Alexandria	Daughter	1
Krukoff, Condrat	Brother	17
Dyakanoff, Andrew	Stepson	13
Krukoff, Metrofan	Husband	24
Krukoff, Pelagia	Wife	19
Philamonoff, Foekla	Sister-in-law	12
Krukoff, Nicoli	Husband	56
Krukoff, Katherine	Wife	49
Krukoff, Ustinia	Daughter	17
Emanoff, Alexai	Nephew	9
Tetoff, Agrafina	Daughter of Neon	5
Kushin, Michael	Husband	23
Kushin, Matrona	Wife	17
Mazeekin, John	Bachelor	18
Seduli, Elizabeth	Widow	66
Stepetin, Marena	Daughter of John	9
Melovidoff, Alexander	Husband	32
Melovidoff, Salome	Wife	31
Melovidoff, Antone	Son	13
Melovidoff, Alfai	do	4
Melovidoff, Joseph	do	[1] 3
Melovidoff, Simeon	Husband	39
Melovidoff, Alexandria	Wife	39
Melovidoff, Margaret	Daughter	15
Melovidoff, Christopher	Son	13

[1] Months.

EXHIBIT 7.—*Census of St. Paul Island, Alaska, year ended June 30, 1907*—Continued.

Name.	Relation.	Age.
Melovidoff, Alexander	Son	11
Melovidoff, Simeon, jr	do	8
Merculieff, Alexander	Husband	31
Merculieff, Agafia	Wife	29
Merculieff, Paul	Son	13
Merculieff, Auxenia	Daughter	11
Merculieff, Terrenty	Son	4
Merculieff, Dorofay	do	2
Merculieff, Paul	Brother	17
Merculieff, John	Husband	21
Merculieff, Avdotia	Wife	34
Merculieff, Serefimia	Daughter	3
Merculieff, Leonty	Son	(1)
Nosekoff, Simeon	Husband	30
Nosekoff, Avdotia	Wife	32
Nosekoff, Mary	Daughter	9
Tetoff, John	Adopted son	3
Kozeroff, Ivanally	Half brother	19
Kozeroff, Alexandria	Half sister	14
Orloff, J E, Rev. Father	Father	49
Orloff, Olga	Daughter	17
Orloff, Nadia	do	15
Orloff, Nicoli	Son	13
Orloff, Alexandria	Daughter	10
Pankoff, Parfiri	Father	44
Pankoff, Martha	Daughter	9
Pankoff, Vlass	Husband	19
Pankoff, Agrafina	Wife	19
Rookavishnikoff, Stepan	Husband	26
Rookavishnikoff, Elizabeth	Wife	20
Rookavishnikoff, Andrew	Son	2
Sedick, Theodore	Father	59
Sedick, Innokenty	Son	22
Sedick, John	do	10
Shabolin, Necon	Husband	40
Shabolin, Foekla	Wife	37
Shabolin, Varvara	Daughter	9
Shabolin, Matrona	do	7
Shabolin, Daniel	Son	4
Shabolin, Caesar	do	(2) 3
Stepetin, Dorofay	Husband	36
Stepetin, Luboff	Wife	31
Stepetin, Auxenia	Daughter	8
Stepetin, Marena	do	2
Stepetin, Vassili	Son	14
Stepetin, Elary	Husband	43
Stepetin, Anna	Wife	36
Stepetin, Agnes	Daughter	11
Stepetin, Nicoli	Son	4
Stepetin, Mark	do	1
Stepetin, John	Husband	27
Stepetin, Vera	Wife	27
Stepetin, Vassili	Son	6
Stepetin, Larion	do	2
Stepetin, Olga	Daughter	1
Shisenikoff, George	Father	25
Shisenikoff, Sergius	Son	2
Tetoff, Neon	Husband	37
Tetoff, Agrafina	Wife	32
Tetoff, Mary	Daughter	11
Tetoff, Dimitri	Son	9
Tetoff, Irena	Daughter	7
Tetoff, Anna	do	(2) 6
Tetoff, Peter	Husband	42
Tetoff, Mary	Wife	46
Kochutin, Varvara	Adopted daughter	11
Stepetin, Keonia	do	12
Tetoff, Zahar	Husband	28
Tetoff, Daria	Wife	27
Tetoff, Paul	Son	2
Tetoff, Benedict	do	(2) 3
WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.		
Balokshin, Matrona	Widow	57
Rookavishnikoff, Parascovia	Niece	18
Shaposhnikoff, Parascovia	Spinster	40
Emanoff, Mary	Widow	29
Emanoff, Eneka	Son	6
Emanoff, Peter	do	4
Emanoff, Mamnoth	do	1
Fratis, Akalina	Widow	33

[1] Infant

[2] Months.

EXHIBIT 7.—*Census of St. Paul Island, Alaska, year ended June 30, 1907*—Continued.

Name.	Relation.	Age.
WIDOWS AND ORPHANS—continued.		
Fratis, Agrafina	Daughter	16
Fratis, Simeon	Son	13
Fratis, Ulianna	Daughter	11
Fratis, Martha	do	8
Kochutin, Zenobia	Mother	39
Kochutin, Innokenty	Son	4
Krukoff, Anna	Widow	41
Krukoff, Mary	Daughter	10
Peeshnikoff, Wassalisa	Widow	47
Nedarazoff, Katherine	do	49

RECAPITULATION.

Males		90
Females		80
Native population, June 30, 1906		168
Arrival during year ended June 30, 1907		1
Births during year ended June 30, 1907		9
		178
Departures during year ended June 30, 1907	2	
Deaths during year ended June 30, 1907	6	
		8
Total native population, June 30, 1907		170

EXHIBIT 8.—*Statistics of killings, St. Paul Island, 1907.*

Date.	Rookery.	Killed.	Dismissed.		Branded.		Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Small.	Large.	2 years.	3 years.		
1907.								
Jan. 29	Sea Lion Rock	6	.....	22	.....	.....	28	21
May 12	do	105	.....	212	.....	.....	317	33
28	Reef	106	13	318	.....	.....	437	24
June 28	Northeast Point	401	61	143	.....	.....	605	66
29	Tolstoi	93	.....	61	7	9	170	54
July 1	Zapadni	206	71	57	45	19	398	51
2	Reef and Gorbatch	564	93	134	96	73	960	58
3	Northeast Point	556	80	121	66	56	879	63
3	Halfway Point	46	3	44	1	3	97	47
5	Zapadni	251	54	32	9	14	360	69
6	Reef and Gorbatch	516	88	120	46	37	807	63
6	Tolstoi	123	25	56	3	7	214	57
8	Northeast Point	394	94	33	16	9	546	72
10	Reef and Gorbatch	445	55	65	31	36	632	70
11	Zapadni	353	56	24	22	8	463	76
13	Tolstoi	224	28	10	13	15	290	77
15	Northeast Point	1,224	294	22	55	33	1,628	75
15	Halfway Point	19	1	18	2	5	45	42
16	Reef and Gorbatch	782	77	49	65	72	1,045	74
17	Zapadni	321	38	21	31	23	434	73
18	Tolstoi	71	4	19	9	8	111	63
20	Northeast Point	486	45	11	28	7	577	84
20	Halfway Point	116	1	15	5	7	144	80
22	Reef and Gorbatch	1,179	63	120	87	69	1,518	77
22	Tolstoi	38	.....	39	7	6	90	42
23	Zapadni	300	26	43	24	10	403	74
25	Northeast Point	858	72	21	39	16	1,006	85
25	Halfway Point	96	4	26	4	17	147	65
26	Reef and Gorbatch	627	70	124	80	65	966	64
26	Tolstoi	60	2	36	7	5	110	54
27	Zapadni	349	65	40	33	14	501	69
29	Reef and Gorbatch	57	54	19	38	21	189	30
	Total	10,972	1,537	2,076	869	664	16,117	68

EXHIBIT 9.—*Classification of large seals dismissed, St. Paul Island, 1907.*

Date.	Rookery.	4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	7 years.	8 years or over.
June 28	Northeast Point	37	66	30	10	.....
29	Tolstoi	23	17	19	2	.....
July 1	Zapadni	16	29	12	.....	.....
2	Reef and Gorbatch	95	27	12	.....	.....
3	Northeast Point	42	50	23	6	.....
3	Halfway Point	5	22	11	6	.....
5	Zapadni	13	4	12	.....	3
6	Reef and Gorbatch	76	30	9	5	.....
6	Tolstoi	34	14	5	3	.....
8	Northeast Point	14	4	13	2	.....
10	Reef and Gorbatch	24	14	17	10	.....
11	Zapadni	15	8	1	.....	.....
13	Tolstoi	6	3	1	.....	.....
15	Northeast Point	7	3	7	3	2
16	Reef and Gorbatch	26	14	7	2	.....
15	Halfway Point	5	7	6	.....	.....
16	Reef and Gorbatch	26	14	7	2	.....
17	Zapadni	12	1	7	1	.....
18	Tolstoi	2	13	4	.....	.....
20	Northeast Point	.....	10	1	.....	.....
20	Halfway Point	.....	9	4	2	.....
22	Reef and Gorbatch	62	22	28	8	.....
22	Tolstoi	12	13	14	.....	.....
23	Zapadni	28	9	6	.....	.....
25	Northeast Point	7	3	9	2	.....
25	Halfway Point	9	9	5	2	1
26	Reef and Gorbatch	68	24	24	8	.....
27	Zapadni	21	12	4	3	.....
29	Reef	12	3	2	2	.....
	Total	697	454	300	79	6

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 3, 1907.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a report on the condition of affairs on St. George Island, from August 14, 1906, to the present date.

Vessels.—During the interval between August 14 and September 9 the U. S. S. *Perry* called here 5 times. Twice we were able to communicate with her by boat and 3 times by signals only.

On September 12 a schooner, nationality unknown, appeared off Zapadni. She came to within a mile of the rookery, then sailed away, making no attempt to land.

On October 3 the U. S. S. *McCulloch* anchored at Garden Cove and landed the 2 natives who were sent to Valdez in September as witnesses against the Japanese sealers captured on this island August 5. The *McCulloch* touched here again on October 11, picked up our mail, and sailed immediately for the south. Since that date no vessel has put in here, although on October 24 a steamer, which we took to be the U. S. S. *Thetis*, passed the west end of the island bound south. I was given to understand by Capt. Cantwell, of the *McCulloch*, that the *Thetis* would call here for the October mail. That she did not do so was the source of great disappointment.

School.—School opened on the 1st day of September with 12 boys and 10 girls in attendance and was maintained until May 1, 1907. In October one of the male pupils died. A competent teacher was in charge. Early in the season an epidemic of stomach trouble broke out among the scholars and a large number of absences resulted therefrom.

The report of the teacher is herewith inclosed, marked "Exhibit A."

Seals.—Four hundred and fifty-eight seals of the quota of 500 allowed the natives of this island for food were obtained. The first drive was made on October 19, from Staraya Artel, and 220 seals killed; 209 small, 65 3-year-olds, 5 4-year-olds, 6 5-year-olds, 2 6-year-olds, and 4 branded were turned away. Three other drives were made as follows: October 31, Staraya Artel rookery, 148 seals killed, 12 3-year-olds released; November 9, Staraya Artel and North, 44 seals killed; November 16, North rookery, 25 seals killed; October 20 to November 10, Zapadni Guards, 21 seals killed.

The last 3 drives were made up entirely of seals pulled out from among the cows by the natives, and as very careful selection had taken place on the rookery very few were turned away from the killing field.

Of the 511 seals which composed the drive of October 19 only 4 bore any signs of having been branded, and these signs were extremely indistinct. No branded seals were seen after this date. It is quite evident that, in the majority of cases, the brands put on in June are by a rapid growth of new fur during the interval from August 1 to

October 19 so entirely obliterated that they can not be depended upon to protect the seals during the food killings in the fall. To meet this condition I confined the killing as near as possible to those animals having skins weighing from 5 to 6½ pounds, but despite the most careful and painstaking effort 45 skins weighing over 6½ pounds were taken. (For detailed statement of weights of skins, see Exhibit B.)

No dead pups were found on the 2 rookeries which I examined in October, the foxes, as usual, having cleaned them up.

The first bulls of the season were seen April 27 off North rookery, but it was not until May 1 that they began hauling out.

The first bachelors, 20 in number, hauled out at No. 12, North rookery, May 9; they were nearly all large 4 and 5 year olds.

On North rookery, near No. 17, there is now in place on the breeding ground a young bull with a large T brand across his back. This form of brand was in use only in 1899; he is therefore 8 years old. This bull was observed last year, first in the drives and later; when the harems began to break up, he took a stand on the breeding ground, obtained some cows, and was able to maintain himself there.

Foxes.—The fox herd and all the foxing operations during the past season have been entirely under my care and direction.

During the summer the agent of the North American Commercial Co. furnished free of cost the necessary amount of salt for the curing of all surplus seal carcasses to be used for fox food, and on the 1st of September he turned over to me 12 tons of fox food consisting of salted salmon and codfish. Throughout the trapping season everything necessary for the trapping and the proper preparation of the skins was also furnished without cost.

Feeding.—I opened the feeding season on September 19 by putting out 2 tubs (328 pounds) of salt fish, of which the foxes ate about one-half. Continued feeding fish daily until November 20, when the diet was changed to salted seal meat, which was fed continuously until about the middle of April. The supply then becoming exhausted, the feeding of fish was resumed. During the months of September, October, December, January, March, and April there were few days in which the amount of food put out was not in excess of that consumed. Only during November and February did the foxes eat all that was fed them. By the 1st of May large numbers of birds were everywhere about the island, and as the foxes were not eating any of the fish put out for them I stopped further feeding, having still on hand in the neighborhood of 14,000 pounds of salt fish.

The total amount of food known to have been consumed by the foxes from September 19, 1906, to May 1, 1907, was as follows:

	Pounds.
Salt fish	10,000
668 salt seal carcasses (village)	16,000
245 salt seal carcasses (Zapadni)	14,700
Offal of 458 seals	5,000
4 walrus carcasses	3,000
Total	48,700

In addition to this supply of food there came ashore at Zapadni in October a part of a whale, but just how much food it furnished the foxes it is impossible to say.

Trapping.—On being advised by the company's agent, November 20, that he would receive skins, I began trapping on that date and continued to do so until the 11th of February. The 2 regular traps at fox house and barn were used as well as 2 automatic traps, one located at East Landing and the other at the fox house. Four times during the season men were sent to Zapadni, remaining from three to five days each time, and 58 foxes were caught there. A small number were also caught about the village with string traps. Thirty-six trappings were made at the fox house and 31 at the barn. There were also 5 failures at the barn and 6 at the fox house.

The total number of foxes taken was 869 blue and 8 white. Of these 375 (226 blue males, 141 blue females, 4 white males, and 4 white females) were killed and 502 (232 blue males and 270 blue females) were branded and released for breeders. The foxes selected for breeders were the cream of the herd. No fox was reserved that was over 3 years old and only 6 that were under the standard weight of 10 pounds for males and 7½ pounds for females. Five of these 6 weighed 9¾ pounds and one 9½ pounds.

The automatic traps took 83 foxes this season, exactly the same number as last season.

With the exception of a few days in November and February, the weather throughout the entire season was as unfavorable as it well could be for the trapping of foxes. Rain fell incessantly during the months of December and January, and the foxes would not enter the traps in any numbers nor were they even to be seen hanging

about the village. To the unfavorable weather conditions and to that alone I attribute the falling off in the catch.

That there were a large number of foxes on the island that did not pass through our hands is certain from the fact that on February 22, 40 foxes were seen at Garden Cove feeding on the carcass of a hair seal, and of these only 4 were branded.

During the season of 1905–6, carrying out a suggestion made by Mr. Judge, I earmarked 50 male and female yearlings. A close watch was maintained for any of these foxes that might turn up in the trappings this season, but only 4 were found. They were all females and were again released. I am inclined to believe from the very small number of these animals we found that nature must have obliterated the marks.

The quality of the skins taken this year on the whole show no superiority over those secured last year.

Native earnings from foxes.—The total number of skins accepted by the company was 366 blue and 8 white. Six blue skins were rejected. The sum of $1,838 has therefore been credited on the books of the company in favor of the native inhabitants of this island and is available for their support. (For division of earnings, see Exhibit C.)

Mange among the foxes.—Four foxes were killed during the winter that were suffering from mange, or some other form of skin disease, which almost denuded them of their fur. Autopsy failed to show any disease of internal organs. Two of these foxes were in an extreme state of emaciation, one was in fair condition, and one was fat. One other case of the same disease was observed in a fox at large, a female which had been branded. There was but little fur on her anywhere except her tail. No mangy foxes were found dead, but those that were caught were killed to prevent as much as possible the spread of the disease. (A skin of one of these diseased animals is submitted herewith, marked "Exhibit D.")

Dead foxes.—The total number of dead foxes observed since August, 1906, has been 11. Of these, 7 were males, 2 females, and 2 sex not known. One was found to have died of perforation of the stomach caused by an ulcer; in the rest the cause of death could not be ascertained.

Decrease in the fox catch.—Last year the total number of foxes caught was 1,044; this year the catch fell to 877. It is my opinion that the decrease is merely in the number of foxes caught and not in the actual number of foxes on the island, and, further, the falling off is directly attributable to unfavorable weather conditions.

During the winter of 1905–6 there was reserved for breeding purposes 581 of the finest and largest foxes that passed through our hands. The foxes were fed during the entire winter, and the amount of food was about equal to that fed during the preceding year. There was no evidence of any great number of deaths either from starvation or disease. There was but little ice around the island during the winter, and a considerable number of unbranded foxes were at large after the trapping season. From these facts it is reasonable to suppose that as many foxes successfully passed through the winter of 1905–6 as did through the winter of 1904–5, and that the season of 1906–7 must have begun with at least as many foxes in the herd as were present the year before. If this supposition is correct, then one of two things happened. Either a large number of foxes died during the fall and early winter of 1906–7 or we failed to catch anything like the whole number of foxes that were on the island. There is not the slightest evidence to show that there was any great mortality among the foxes last winter; on the contrary, the number of dead picked up about the island was considerably less than it has been for some years. No ice reached the island, feeding was abundantly carried on, and a large number of unbranded foxes were seen after the trapping season. The only reasonable explanation left, then, is that the decrease is in the catch and not in the herd itself.

Weather exerts a powerful influence over the number of foxes that go through the trap. When the winter is mild and much rain falls during the trapping season, fewer foxes visit the trap and the catch is light. On the other hand, when the winter is cold and much snow falls a greater number of foxes hang about the village and visit the traps and the catch is larger. This is amply borne out by the record of the past five years. During that period there were two winters of exceptional mildness and great rainfall and on these two winters and these only has there been any great falling off in the catch.

Increase or decrease in the fox herd is mainly governed by the supply of food. Epidemics of disease may cause a decrease, but if the food supply is ample such a decrease will only be temporary. But any great permanent increase in the herd without a corresponding increase in the food supply is simply out of the question. The food supply on this island is derived from two sources, that which is thrown up on the beaches by the sea and that which is artificially provided. The quantity of the former can not in any way be determined, while the amount of the latter can be

accurately gauged. For the past five years the amount of artificially provided food has not varied greatly in amount, and I suppose that the amount of food furnished by the beaches does not from year to year vary much. The catches of three of the past five years have been almost identical, 1,011, 1,061, and 1,044, the catch falling in the other two years to 766 and 867. This would seem to indicate that the natural food supply supplemented by that artificially provided has been sufficient to maintain throughout each winter during the past five years enough foxes to bring up the herd each season to somewhere in the neighborhood of a thousand foxes, and it is my opinion that unless the artificial food supply is largely increased we can look to no permanent increase in the herd much beyond this limit.

Pairing of foxes.—The first authentic case of foxes pairing on this island has recently come under my notice. Two foxes, which by the brands on their tails show them to be a male and female, occupy a hole under the lumber house and have there a litter of young ones. Both male and female are busy throughout the day procuring and bringing food to the hole, but the male is particularly active in this direction. Any visiting foxes are promptly driven away.

Stock raising.—The natives' attempt at pig culture has met with considerable success. Two years ago they were allowed to purchase 4 sows and a boar. There is now on the island 26 pigs of various sizes. During the winter a number were killed, which yielded for native use 579 pounds of fresh meat.

Improvements.—The Government house has been thoroughly painted inside and out. Posts sufficient for the construction of a telephone line to East and Staraya Artel rookeries have been secured and distributed.

Public health.—With the exception of an epidemic of gastroenteritis, which broke out among the natives last fall, the health has been very good. There has been 6 births (2 boys and 4 girls) and 4 deaths (2 males and 2 females). The report of the resident physician is herewith submitted as Exhibit E.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor,
in Charge Seal Fisheries.

EXHIBIT A.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *April 30, 1907.*

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Special Agent, U. S. Department Commerce and Labor,
in Charge St. George Island, Alaska:

As required by the lease of the seal islands of Alaska by the North American Commercial Co., a school for the native children of St. George Island has been maintained for eight months past, and instruction in the English language has been given to all children between the ages of 6 and 16 years.

The school has been attended from September 1 to October 13, 1906, by 12 boys and 10 girls, the remainder of the year by 11 boys and 10 girls, with the exception of absences of 182½ days, as shown below.

The large inattendance was due to the great amount of sickness occurring in the early part of the year.

The usual vacation of 10 days at Christmas, Thanksgiving Day, Washington's Birthday, and four "holy days" of the Russian Church have been observed.

Boys attending school 6 weeks		12
Boys attending school 29⅕ weeks		11
Girls attending school 35⅕ weeks		10
Pupils attending school end of year		21
Weeks in school year		35⅕
Days in school year		176
Holidays:		
Christmas recess	10 days	
Thanksgiving Day	1 do	
Washington's Birthday	1 do	
Church	4 do	
Total	16 days	
School actually in session	160 do	

Absences:		
Excused by Government (4)	do....	5½
Excused by doctor (22)	do....	177
Total	do....	182½
Attendance from Sept. 1 to Oct. 13, 1906 (22×30)	do....	660
Attendance from Oct. 14, 1906, to Apr. 30, 1907 (21×130)	do....	2,730
Total	do....	3,390
Less absences	do....	182½
Actual attendance for year	do....	3,207½
Average daily attendance		20.04

ELDER NANCE,
Teacher for North American Commercial Co.

EXHIBIT B.—*Weights of sealskins taken on St. George Island, fall of 1906.*

Date.	Rookery.	Weights (pounds).														
		3½	4½	5	5½	5½	5¾	6	6½	6½	6¾	7	7¼	7½	8	9
Oct. 19	Staraya Artel	....	....	26	9	32	13	68	12	26	5	20	1	6	....	2
19	Zapadni Guards	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....
23	.....do	....	....	....	1	3	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
30	.....do	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	3	....	2	....	....	....	....
31	Staraya Artel	1	1	33	21	24	27	25	1	8	1	3	1	1	1	....
Nov. 9	Staraya Artel and North	....	....	9	4	6	15	8	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
10	Zapadni Guards	....	....	3	1	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
16	North	....	....	9	2	4	2	6	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
	Total	1	1	80	38	69	59	111	16	38	7	25	3	7	1	2

EXHIBIT C.—*Fox division, season of 1906–7, St. George Island.*

By 366 blue-fox skins, at $5	$1,830.00
By 8 white-fox skins, at $1	8.00
Total	1,838.00
To 15 first-class men, at $81.10	1,216.50
To 7 second-class men, at $64.95	454.65
To 2 third-class men, at $48.75	97.50
To 2 special-class men	65.00
To 5 gallons coal oil used at well house	2.00
To lumber for repair of pig house	2.35
Total	1,838.00

FIRST CLASS.

1. John Galanin	81.10
2. Rev. Peter Kashavarof	81.10
3. Stepan Lekanof	81.10
4. Demetri Lestenkof	81.10
5. Mike Lestenkof	81.10
6. Nikolai Malavansky	81.10
7. George Merculif	81.10
8. Joseph Merculif	81.10
9. Nikolai Merculif	81.10
10. Nikolai Nedarazof	81.10
11. Andronic Philamonof	81.10
12. Gregory Philamonof	81.10
13. Simeon Philamonof	81.10
14. Peter Prokopief	81.10
15. Manuel Zaharof	81.10

SECOND CLASS.

1. Alexander Galanin	$64.95
2. Walter Kashavarof	64.95
3. Trefan Kochooten	64.95
4. Peter Malavansky	64.95
5. Demetri Philimonof	64.95
6. Mike Shane	64.95
7. Gregory Swetzof	64.95

THIRD CLASS.

1. Anatoli Lekanof	48.75
2. John Merculif	48.75

SPECIAL CLASS.

1. Stepan Lekanof, chief	35.00
2. Joseph Merculif, second chief	25.00
Joseph Merculif, hydrant keeper	5.00

I hereby certify that the above division was made by me after conference with the native chiefs on this island.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, United States Department of Commerce and Labor, in Charge St. George Island.

I hereby certify that the amounts as above stated have been placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

B. NETHERLAND,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

The division as above made is hereby approved on behalf of the natives of St. George Island.

STEPAN LEKANOFF, *First Chief.*
JOSEPH MERCULIFF, *Second Chief.*

EXHIBIT E.[1]

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 1, 1907.*

SIR: In reply to your request, I submit the following medical report for St. George Island for the year beginning June 1, 1906, and ending May 31, 1907:

As is usually the case on these islands, the balance of the cases treated were either of bronchial or gastro-intestinal origin. During the months of September and October the natives, adults and children, suffered from a gastroenteritis that practically amounted to an epidemic. The aged and children suffered most severely. One death occurred, directly assignable to this cause.

The lack of observance of any of the principles of hygiene and the manner of preparing their food were the only causative factors arrived. The wells furnishing the drinking water were examined, with negative results. The trouble subsided as the colder weather approached. Barring the gastroenteritis, the general health has been good.

The record of births and deaths is as follows:

Births.

Name of mother.	Sex.	Name of child.	Date.
Marvara Merculif	Daughter	Pariscoya	Nov. 8, 1906
Stepanida Prokopief	do	Mary	Nov. 13, 1906
Zoya Swetzof	do	Agnes	Dec. 2, 1906
Mary Zacharof	Son	Vassili	Jan. 11, 1907
Stepanida Merculif	Daughter	Alexandra	Apr. 3, 1907
Helena Kashavarof	Son	Andrew	Apr. 19, 1907

[1] Exhibit D was a skin of a diseased fox.

Deaths.

Name.	Age.	Disease.	Date.
Marka Merculif	21 years	Pulmonary tuberculosis.	Oct. 5, 1906
Andronic Philamonof, jr	6 years	Gastroenteritis.	Oct. 13, 1906
Agnes Lestinkof	10 months	Inanition	Nov. 26, 1906
Serefina Riazanzof	18 years	Pulmonary tuberculosis.	Dec. 3, 1906

Respectfully,

F. HOLMES SMITH, M. D.

MR. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor,
in Charge St. George Island.

EXHIBIT F.—*Annual statement of foxes caught on St. George Island, season of 1906–7.*

Date.	Location and style of trap.	Killed.				Released for breeders.	
		Blue.		White.		Blue.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1906.							
Oct. 20 to Nov. 24	Found dead	5					
Nov. 20	East Landing, automatic	8	3			4	11
20	Fox house	21	12	2	1	30	23
20	Barn	11	8			10	17
21	Fox house, automatic	4	1			1	1
22	....do					4	1
22	Fox house	27	19			22	31
22	Barn	11	9		1	13	19
22	East Landing, automatic	1	3				1
23	Fox house, automatic		1				1
23	East Landing, automatic	5	1				3
25	....do	2	2	1		1	
25	Fox house	14	8	1	1	10	9
25	Barn	3	1			3	3
26	East Landing, automatic		1				
27	....do	1	2				3
27	Fox house	14	8			19	19
27	Barn	1	1			4	
28	Zapadni	7	7			17	11
29	East Landing, automatic						1
30	Fox house	3	2			4	4
30	Barn					3	
Dec. 2	East Landing, automatic	1					1
2	Fox house	5	2			4	3
2	Barn	2				1	2
3	Graveyard	1					
5	East Landing, automatic	1					
5	Fox house	2				5	2
5	Barn	1				1	4
7	Fox house	1				1	1
7	Barn	1					
9	East Landing, automatic					1	
11	Zapadni					1	5
11	Fox house	4	6			4	6
11	Barn						2
13	Fox house	3	1			3	5
13	Barn	2	2			2	1
16	Fox house	2	1			2	3
16	Barn	2					
18	Fox house	1	1				
18	Barn	1	1			1	1
19	East Landing, automatic	1	1			1	1
20	Barn					2	
26	Fox house	5	3			5	7
26	Barn	4			1	1	4
27	Village	2	1				2

EXHIBIT F.—*Annual statement of foxes caught on St. George Island, season of 1906–7*—Continued.

Date.	Location and style of trap.	Killed.				Released for breeders.	
		Blue.		White.		Blue.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1906.							
Dec. 28	Fox house	3	2			2	4
28	Barn	1				3	2
30	Fox house					1	
30	Barn					2	1
1907.							
Jan. 2	Fox house	1				2	
2	Barn					1	
4	East Landing, automatic	2	1				1
4	Fox house	4	2			3	2
4	Barn	1				2	1
5	East Landing, automatic		1				
8	....do		1				
11	Fox house					1	
17	....do	2				2	
20	....do	3	3			1	3
20	Barn						1
21	Village		1			3	5
22	Fox house		2			1	2
22	Barn					1	
23	East Landing, automatic	1					
23	Village					2	
24	Fox house	4	2			2	2
24	Barn	1				2	1
25	Village		1				2
26	Zapadni	1	3			1	1
27	Fox house	4	1			3	3
27	Barn		1			1	2
28	Fox house						4
28	Barn	1					1
29	Fox house	3	1				3
29	Barn					2	2
30	....do						1
31	Fox house	1					
31	Barn						1
Feb. 1	Fox house	1	1			2	1
1	Barn						1
3	Fox house	3	2			1	1
3	Barn		1				
4	Fox house					2	
5	....do	3				1	
6	....do	1					1
6	Barn	1				1	2
7	Village		1			1	1
7	Fox house	1				1	1
8	Zapadni	1	3				
8	Fox house	1					1
8	Barn					1	4
10	Fox house	4	1			1	1
11	Barn	2	1				1
11	Fox house		1			1	
13	....do					2	2
	Total	231	141	4	4	232	270

EXHIBIT G.—*Approximate ages of foxes released for breeding on St. George Island, season of 1906–7.*

Age.	Male.	Female.
Young, or approximately 1 year old	31	105
Middle-aged:		
2 years old	110	106
3 years old	91	58
Old, or over 3 years		1
Total	232	270

EXHIBIT H.—*Approximate ages of foxes killed on St. George Island, season of 1906–7.*

Age.	Male.	Female.
Young, or approximately 1 year old	102	89
Middle-aged:		
2 years old	95	28
3 years old	26	8
Old, or over 3 years	12	20
Total	235	145

EXHIBIT I.—*Live weights of foxes released for breeding on St. George Island, season of 1906–7.*

Weight.	Male.	Female.	Weight.	Male.	Female.
Pounds.			*Pounds.*		
7½	.....	30	12½	7	5
7¾	.....	7	13	12	3
8	.....	60	13¼	2	.....
8¼	.....	8	13½	4	4
8½	.....	31	14	5	7
8¾	.....	1	14½	3	.....
9	.....	35	14¾	2	.....
9¼	.....	3	15	3	1
9½	1	19	15½	1	.....
9¾	6	.....	16	3	.....
10	54	20	16½	2	.....
10¼	12	2	17	1	1
10½	32	6	18	1	.....
10¾	4	1	19	1	.....
11	38	16	20	1	.....
11½	14	3			
12	22	7		232	270
12¼	1	.....			

EXHIBIT J.—*Live weights of foxes killed on St. George Island, season of 1906–7.*

Weight.	Male.	Female.	Weight.	Male.	Female.
Pounds.			*Pounds.*		
4¾	.....	3	8½	37	.....
5	3	2	8¾	4	.....
5¼	2	.....	9	49	5
5½	3	9	9¼	3	.....
5¾	.....	5	9½	23	2
6	7	23	9¾	6	.....
6¼	3	5	10	4	2
6½	11	25	10½	3	.....
6¾	.....	11	11	3	.....
7	13	23	12	3	2
7¼	5	17	13	1	.....
7½	16	2	13½	.....	1
7¾	1	.....			
8	27	8		230	145
8¼	3	.....			

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, *August 7, 1907.*

WALTER I. LEMBKEY, Esq.,
Agent Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island.

SIR: I herewith transmit the reports named below, covering the work of St. George Island for the season ended July 31, 1907, to wit:

1. Census of native inhabitants of St. George Island, June 30, 1907.
2. Report of counts of rookeries, including bulls and cows, covering dates up to maximum stage of the rookeries.
3. Record of seals dismissed from the drives during the sealing season.
4. Report of sealskins taken during the sealing year ended July 31, 1907.
5. Transcript of weights of skins taken during the sealing year ended July 31, 1907.
6. Seal division of native earnings for taking sealskins for the sealing year ended July 31, 1907.

7. Report of the count of living and dead pups and of dead cows, 1907.

The copy of fox division was forwarded by Mr. Chichester.

The sealing was successfully concluded on July 29. We might have completed it three days earlier. We had no difficulty in getting the 2,600 skins which you named in your letter of July 17 as the limit of this island's quota for the current year. From the number and size of the seals appearing on the rookeries at the date of our last drive, when we had only 17 skins to take for completing the quota, I am satisfied that we might readily have taken the whole 3,000 named in department's letter of instructions as a number which might be taken in the event of seals showing here in such numbers as to indicate the presence on this island of seals usually hauling on St. Paul Island. I am convinced that either some of the St. Paul seals are hauling this summer on St. George, driven here by the disturbance made by the Japanese pelagic sealers at that island, or, at least, that the immunity from the near presence of the Japanese which this island has enjoyed has permitted the seals here to increase through natural causes in greater ratio than has been the increase on St. Paul; and hence the good showing here of young killable seals. At the last drive, alluded to above, we turned away 75 young bachelors of killable size out of a drive made from a single rookery. It appears quite certain that the rate of seal diminution going on here is less marked than it was last year, as witness: (1) The larger than usual number of young male seals appearing in our drives already mentioned. (2) The actual count of pups on North rookery, which gives a few more pups than last year's count. (3) Personal observation of the rookeries on which pups were not counted, which indicates a condition of less depletion as respects seals of all ages than was apparent last year. We need not place much stress on the decrease of pups on Little East, as that is an isolated, vanishing rookery, which is shrinking away because no bachelors haul there and young seals do not return.

I present below the maxima of harems and bulls for the last two years, showing the various rookeries:

Rookery.	1906				1907			
	Harems.	Bulls in place.	Idle bulls.	Total bulls.	Harems.	Bulls in place.	Idle bulls.	Total bulls.
East Cliffs	34	34	2	36	32	32	4	36
East Reef	15	15	2	17	14	14	6	20
Little East	8	8	0	8	7	7	0	7
North	78	78	6	84	81	81	11	92
Staraya Artel	26	26	0	26	26	26	6	32
Zapadni	34	34	3	37	28	28	6	34
Total	195	195	13	208	188	188	33	221

This presentation shows an apparent gain of 13 bulls over last year. While such statistics are not conclusive evidence, they are yet encouraging and lead to the belief that the efforts put forth to preserve an adequate breeding force will prove successful. Of course all our efforts, should the scourge of pelagic sealing, especially in near contiguity to the islands, be permitted to continue its devastating action, are destined to prove futile.

The telephone lines designed for this island, one to East rookery watchhouse, the other to Staraya Artel rookery, have been duly installed. Mr. Chichester last spring had collected the necessary poles from driftwood on the beaches and had caused those in the line to East rookery to be placed in position. This summer he kindly superintended the work of putting up the remaining poles, stringing the wires, and fully installing the lines. At Staraya Artel a tight box has been erected, provided with lock and key, for holding the receiver and batteries. This line being intended for use only when it is necessary for the native guard near that rookery to communicate with the agent at the village, a house is not provided for the present. The watchmen are not required to remain overnight save when vessels are hovering near.

I inclose this day under a separate cover the shipping receipt of sealskins shipped from this island the current year.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. George Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1907.

Date.	Rookery.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.			Number of seals killed by lessees for skins.				Aggregate.		
		Large young seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Accepted (prime).	Rejected.			Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
						Under size.	For other reasons (overweight.)	Total.			
1906.											
Oct. 19	Staraya Artel	220	220	220					220		220
19	Zapadni, watchman	3	3	3					3		3
23	do	6	6	6					6		6
30	do	6	6	6					6		6
31	Staraya Artel	148	148	148					148		148
Nov. 9	Staraya Artel and North	44	44	44					44		44
10	Zapadni, watchman	6	6	6					6		6
16	North	25	25	25					25		25
1907.											
June —	Turned over by order of the department under and over limit skins taken last year				60			60	60		60
—	Zapadni, watchman, food skins				10			10	10		10
7	Staraya Artel				46			46	46		46
17	North				16			16	16		16
21	do				32			32	32		32
29	North, Staraya Artel, and East				139	3		139	139	3	142
July 2	Zapadni				29			29	29		29
3	North and East				303	2	3	298	298	5	303
8	do				217	1	1	217	217	2	219
10	Zapadni				50	1		50	50	1	51
12	North, Staraya Artel, and East				281		3	281	281	3	284
16	do				276	3		276	276	3	279
19	Zapadni				91		1	91	91	1	92
20	North and East				227	1		227	227	1	228
22	Staraya Artel				83			83	83		83
24	North and East				215			215	215		215
25	Zapadni and East, watchman				36			36	36		36
29	North				17			17	17		17
	Total	458	458	458	2,128	11	8	2,147	2,581	19	2,600

NOTE.—Nineteen skins are retained in salt under control of the Government agent, being over or under weight, as fixed by the department.

Seal division, St. George Island, August 4, 1907.

By 2,581 sealskins, at 75 cents		$1,935.75
To 14 men of first class, at $79.35	$1,110.90	
To 7 men of second class, at $63.45	444.15	
To 2 men of third class, at $47.65	95.30	
To 4 men of third class, at $47.60	190.40	
To 2 men of special class, at $40 and $35	75.00	
To 1,000 pounds of food for pigs	20.00	
		1,935.75

FIRST CLASS.

1. Galanin, John	79.35
2. Lekanoff, Stepan	79.35
3. Lestenkoff, Dimitri	79.35
4. Lestenkoff, Michael	79.35
5. Malavansky, Nicolai	79.35
6. Merculioff, George	79.35
7. Merculioff, Joseph	79.35

8. Merculioff, Nicolai	$79.35
9. Philimonoff, Andronic	79.35
10. Philimonoff, Gregory	79.35
11. Philimonoff, Simeon	79.35
12. Prokopioff, Peter	79.35
13. Zacharoff, Emanuel	79.35
14. Kashivaroff, Peter, priest	79.35

SECOND CLASS.

1. Galanin, Alexander	63.45
2. Kashivaroff, Walter	63.45
3. Malavansky, Peter	63.45
4. Niderezoff, Nicolai	63.45
5. Philimonoff, Dimitri	63.45
6. Shane, Michael	63.45
7. Swetzoff, Gregory	63.45

THIRD CLASS.

1. Lekanoff, Anatoli	47.65
2. Merculioff, John	47.65
3. Lekanoff, Sergius	47.60
4. Merculioff, Stepan	47.60
5. Niderezoff, Isidor	47.60
6. Buterin, Constantine	47.60

SPECIAL CLASS.

Stepan Lakanoff, as chief	40.00
Joseph Merculioff, as second chief	35.00

The seal division as above made is hereby approved on behalf of the natives of St George Island.

STEPAN LEKANOFF, *First Chief.*
JOSEPH MERCULIOFF, *Second Chief.*

I certify that the amounts indicated herein have been placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By B. NETHERLAND, *Agent.*

I certify that the foregoing seal division was made by me after conference with the native chiefs.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor,
In Charge St. George Island.

Transcript of weights of sealskins, season of 1907, St. George Island, Alaska.

Date.	Rookery.	Weights (pounds).																		
		3½	4½	4¾	5	5¼	5½	5¾	6	6¼	6½	6¾	7	7¼	7½	7¾	8	8¼	8½	8¾	9
1906.																					
Oct. 19	Staraya Artel				26	9	32	13	68	12	26	5	20	1	6						2
19–30	Zapadni, watchman, skins					1	3	2	2	1	3	1	2								
31	Staraya Artel	1	1		33	21	24	27	25	1	8	1	3	1	1		1				
Nov. 9	Staraya Artel and North				9	4	6	15	8	1				1							
10	Zapadni, watchman				3	1			2												
16	North				9	2	4	2	6	1	1										
1907.																					
June 7	Staraya Artel				2	1	6	3	6		3	1	8	1	10	3	1	1			
17	North									2	1		1		3	5	3	3			
29	Zapadni, watchman						4			2	2										
21	North				2	4	2	5	2	6	1	5	1	1	2	1					
29	North, East, and Staraya Artel		3		23	15	20	10	31	1	11	3	13	3	5	1	3				
July 3	North and East		1	1	14	26	37	20	65	8	52	7	34	2	19	4	7	1	2	1	3
8	do		1		23	19	33	16	56	6	24	3	22	6	4		4	1			
10	Zapadni			1	6	7	8	5	9		7	1	3	2	1		1				

Transcript of weights of sealskins, season of 1907, St. George Island, Alaska—Continued.

Date.	Rookery.	Weights (pounds).																		
		3½	4½	4¾	5	5¼	5½	5¾	6	6¼	6½	6¾	7	7¼	7½	7¾	8	8¼	8½	8¾	9
1907.																					
July 12	North, Staraya Artel, and East	...	...	...	10	4	29	3	75	6	50	7	58	2	20	1	11	2	3	1	2
16	.....do	...	1	2	26	25	59	15	53	16	38	8	22	3	6	2	1	1	1	...	..
19	Zapadni	...	...	...	7	7	10	5	19	7	18	4	6	...	5	...	3	...	...	...	1
20	North and East	...	...	1	8	10	35	13	59	21	38	10	23	2	5	1	1	...	...	1	..
22	Staraya Artel	...	...	...	...	3	8	2	20	7	19	3	15	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	..
24	North and East	...	...	...	20	17	48	10	52	12	25	5	16	2	2	2	2	2	...	...	..
25	Zapadni and East, watchman	...	...	...	3	2	7	4	9	6	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	..
29	North	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	6	1	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..
	Total	1	7	5	224	178	378	171	573	117	329	66	251	27	95	20	39	13	6	3	8

NOTE.—The food skins which are over or under limit of weight are not included in the aggregates above given, as the company agent was not responsible for taking them.

Seals dismissed from the drives, St. George Island, season of 1907.

Date.	Rookery.	Marked this year.	Too small.	4 years old.	5 years old.	6 years old.	7 years old.	Cows.	Total dismissed.	
									Small and marked.	Large.
June 7	Staraya Artel	1	18	74	22	.....	.....	.....	19	96
17	North	17	5	10	25	5	5	.....	22	45
21	.....do	15	7	15	10	.....	.....	.....	22	25
21	Staraya Artel	5	2	31	21	20	6	.....	7	78
25	East	64	2	61	15	20	14	.....	66	110
29	North, Staraya Artel, and East	61	23	27	24	13	.....	.....	84	64
July 2	Zapadni	21	18	11	2	12	4	.....	39	29
3	North and Staraya Artel	83	99	41	43	29	24	.....	182	137
7	North and East	50	121	17	5	12	4	.....	171	38
10	Zapadni	30	19	5	2	8	6	.....	49	21
12	North, Staraya Artel, and East	89	72	17	9	4	6	.....	161	36
16	.....do	113	279	16	20	12	5	.....	392	53
19	Zapadni	37	17	7	4	11	6	.....	54	28
20	North and East	53	137	18	9	7	3	.....	190	37
22	Staraya Artel	35	30	7	4	4	1	.....	65	16
24	North and East	49	66	10	2	2	3	.....	115	17
25	Zapadni	10	12	3	3	3	3	59	22	12
29	North [1]	19	19	10	3	6	5	.....	38	24
	Total	752	946	380	223	163	95	.....	1,689	866

[1] The drive of North rookery on July 29 did not include the whole rookery bachelors present, as only 19 seals were required. Seventy-five fine young seals were let go from this drive which were killable.

NOTE.—Many of the seals included in the numbers above given appeared in several drives during the season. The white seal, now 4 or 5 years old, appeared three times and was seen by me afterwards upon the rookery.

Data from rookery counts, St. George Island, season of 1907.

LITTLE EAST.

Date of count.	Bulls in place.	Harems.	Cows.	Bulls idle.
June 2	7			
June 4	7			
June 10	7			
June 12	7			
June 19	7			
July 8	7			
July 10	7	7	142	
July 14	7	7	[1] 183	
July 16	7	7	101	

EAST REEF.

June 2	11			
June 4	11			2
June 10	12			2
June 12	10			
June 19	12			3
July 8	12	12		3
July 10	14	14	492	4
July 14	14	14	[1] 640	6

NORTH.

June 3	55			2
June 5	58			4
June 9	58			4
June 12	60			4
June 18	70	9	18	2
July 5	71	71		7
July 9	73	73	2,492	6
July 14	81	81	[2] 2,889	11

STARAYA ARTEL.

June 5	19			4
June 12	20			4
June 15	26		[3] 1,300	6

ZAPADNI.

June 19	24			
June 27	22			
July 15	28		[3] 1,400	6

EAST CLIFFS.

June 2	17			
June 4	19			2
June 10	21			2
June 12	23	1	1	1
June 19	23	11	16	3
July 10	30	30	1,203	3
July 14	32	32	[1] 1,708	4

[1] Evidently the maximum. [2] The maximum. [3] Estimated; impracticable to count.

Total number of bulls with harems	188
Idle young bulls	33
Cows, including those estimated, present at maximum of rookeries	8,120

Census, St. George Island, on June 30, 1907.

Name of individual.	Family relation.	Age.	Date of birth.
Galanin, Alexander	Husband	21	Sept. 11, 1880
Galanin, Mary	Wife	16	June 22, 1891
Galanin, Akalina	Mother	45	———, 1862
Galanin, John	Husband	25	Sept. 30, 1881
Galanin, Anna	Wife	25	———
Galanin, Fevronia	Widow	29	June 25, 1877
Swetzoff, Paul	Brother	14	July 8, 1892
Kashivaroff, Walter	Husband	19	Feb. 2, 1887
Kashivaroff, Helena	Wife	23	May 27, 1884
Kashivaroff, Andrew	Son	(1)	Apr. 19, 1907
Lekanoff, Stepan	Husband	37	Nov. 9, 1869
Lekanoff, Pelagia	Wife	37	Oct. 20, 1869
Lekanoff, Anatoli	Son	17	Apr. 13, 1890
Lekanoff, Sergius	do	15	Oct. 6, 1891
Lekanoff, Sara	Daughter	13	Aug. 30, 1893
Lekanoff, Marina	do	12	Mar. 9, 1895
Lekanoff, George	Son	10	Apr. 7, 1897
Lestenkoff, Dimitri	Husband	45	May 27, 1862
Lestenkoff, Alexandra	Wife	27	May 5, 1879
Lestenkoff, Elizabeth	Mother	72	Sept. 16, 1834
Lestenkoff, Constantine	Son	8	Sept. 29, 1898
Lestenkoff, Michael	Husband	34	Oct. 12, 1872
Lestenkoff, Oulita	Wife	37	Oct. 20, 1869
Lestenkoff, Innokenty	Son	10	Sept. 25, 1896
Lestenkoff, Anna	Daughter	8	Sept. 30, 1898
Malavansky, Nicoli	Husband	42	Dec. 18, 1864
Malavansky, Fedosia	Wife	26	Apr. 15, 1881
Malavansky, Peter	Bachelor	19	Jan. 22, 1888
Malavansky, Ripsimia	Mother	49	———, 1858
Malavansky, Wassie	Spinster	32	Aug. 22, 1874
Malavansky, Christopher	Nephew	3	June 8, 1904
Merculioff, George	Husband	33	Nov. 15, 1873
Merculioff, Stepanida	Wife	28	Dec. 21, 1878
Merculioff, Peter	Son	8	July 10, 1899
Merculioff, Sophia	Daughter	5	Sept. 29, 1891
Merculioff, George, jr	Son	4	Apr. 29, 1902
Merculioff, Nicoli	do	1	Nov. 26, 1905
Merculioff, Alexandra	Daughter	(1)	Apr. 3, 1907
Merculioff, Martha	Sister	14	July 8, 1893
Merculioff, Joseph	Husband	35	Mar. 17, 1872
Merculioff, Marvara	Wife	28	May 14, 1879
Merculioff, Parascovia	Daughter	(1)	Nov. 8, 1906
Merculioff, John	Brother	17	Jan. 18, 1890
Merculioff, Nicoli	Husband	27	May 19, 1880
Merculioff, Matrona	Wife	24	Oct. 28, 1883
Merculioff, Lavrenty	Son	4	Sept. 8, 1902
Merculioff, Benjamin	do	1	Oct. 28, 1905
Merculioff, Elizabeth	Daughter	(1)	June 3, 1907
Merculioff, Wassalis	Widow	56	Jan. 20, 1851
Merculioff, Alexandra	Daughter	29	Apr. 21, 1878
Niderezoff, Nicoli	Bachelor	29	Dec. 18, 1877
Niderezoff, Efghenia	Mother	53	Jan. 5, 1854
Niderezoff, Isidor	Brother	16	Feb. 15, 1891
Philimonoff, Andronic	Husband	40	Oct. 24, 1867
Philimonoff, Zenobia	Wife	40	Nov. 12, 1866
Philimonoff, Marina	Daughter	17	May 12, 1890
Philimonoff, Leonti	Son	13	May 6, 1894
Philimonoff, Alexandra	Daughter	11	Apr. 25, 1896
Philimonoff, Eoff	Son	5	June 8, 1902
Philimonoff, Gregory	Husband	34	Oct. 18, 1872
Philimonoff, Malania	Wife	33	Jan. 12, 1874
Philimonoff, Dimitri	Brother	21	May 25, 1886
Philimonoff, Paul	Nephew	11	July 11, 1896
Philimonoff, Simeon	Husband	56	Aug. 3, 1850
Philimonoff, Evadotia	Wife	35	Feb. 28, 1871
Philimonoff, Zoya	Daughter	14	Nov. 12, 1892
Philimonoff, Joseph	Son	13	Feb. 4, 1894
Philimonoff, Ignati	do	7	Dec. 29, 1899
Philimonoff, Julia	Daughter	5	Mar. 12, 1902
Philimonoff, Helena	do	3	Apr. 10, 1904
Prokopioff, Peter	Husband	43	May 29, 1864
Prokopioff, Stepanida	Wife	30	Nov. 18, 1876
Prokopioff, Martha	Daughter	11	Mar. 8, 1896
Prokopioff, Marina	do	9	Mar. 5, 1898
Prokopioff, Alexander	Son	5	May 1, 1902
Prokopioff, Lavrenty	do	3	Aug. 20, 1903
Prokopioff, Euphronia	Daughter	2	July —, 1905
Prokopioff, Mary	do	(1)	Nov. 17, 1906
Shane, Michael	Bachelor	19	Oct. 13, 1887
Shane, Raiesse	Mother	55	———, 1852
Merculioff, Stepan	Cousin	16	Sept. 27, 1890
Oustigoff, Anfessia	Foster daughter	12	Apr. 21, 1895

[1] Infant.

Census, St. George Island, on June 30, 1907—Continued.

Name of individual.	Family relation.	Age.	Date of birth.
Swetzoff, Gregory	Husband	21	Nov. 29, 1885
Swetzoff, Zoe	Wife	20	
Swetzoff, Agnes	Daughter	[1]	Dec. 2, 1906
Zacharoff, Emanuel	Husband	27	July 1, 1880
Zacharoff, Mary	Wife	33	Apr. 1, 1874
Zacharoff, Daria	Daughter	5	Apr. 2, 1902
Zacharoff, Kate	do	1	Dec. 7, 1905
Zacharoff, William	Son	[1]	Jan. 11, 1906
PRIEST'S FAMILY.			
Kashivaroff, Peter, priest	Husband	50	Mar. 3, 1857
Kashivaroff, Anna	Wife	42	Jan. 17, 1865
Pavloff, Katrina	Niece	13	Dec. 2, 1893

[1] Infant.

Natives entirely supported by the North American Commercial Co	6
Natives furnished with clothing only by North American Commercial Co	2
Marriages during the year	3
Births during the year	7
Deaths during the year	5
Total native inhabitants now present (males 44, females 49)	93

The foregoing is a correct census of St. George Island, Alaska, on June 30, 1907.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries in Charge.

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 12, 1907.

This is to certify that 2,580 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamship *Homer*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, Department of Commerce and Labor, in Charge.

Shipper's load and count. All on board to be discharged.

A. DONALDSON, *Master Steamer Homer.*

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 7, 1907.*

SIR: I beg to present the following report of the count of pups on this island for the current season: July 31, North rookery, live pups, 4,108; dead pups, 77; dead cows, 2. July 31, Little East rookery, live pups, 200; dead pups, 2.

The counting of pups on the other rookeries was omitted, owing to the presence of the Japanese sealers within the 60-mile zone, and in the near vicinity of the seal islands, as determined upon in our conference on the subject in June last.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, *August 14, 1907.*

DEAR MR. LEMBKEY: It has occurred to me that you may wish a formal statement regarding the marking of the young male seals at this island for a breeding reserve. The following is a statement in detail:

Date.	Rookery.	2 years old.	3 years old.	4 years old.
June 12	Staraya Artel	29	32	20
17	North	14	14	11
19	Zapadni	14	18	15
20	East	26	28	15
21	Staraya Artel	68	61	6
25	East	38	37	14
27	Zapadni	11	12	4
	Total	200	202	85

While the marking of 4-year-old seals is not enjoined, I deemed it wise to mark those which the natives caught, believing that if they would make the error of taking these seals for three years old when we were branding they were likely to make a similar error when we came to killing, and it was a good plan to render such seals immune for the season.

Our selection of seals for breeding was of the first class, and the marks remain as conspicuous now as when first applied.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 4, 1907.

Hon. LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: Referring to the inclosed report of Capt. Dunwoody, Revenue-Cutter Service, concerning the landing on St. Paul Island in July last of three Japanese sailors from a pelagic schooner, I have the honor to report as follows:

These men landed on St. Paul presumably on July 17 last. They reached the village about 9 a. m. on the morning of July 18, being first discovered on the trail from Northeast Point by the company's teamster, who was hauling skins to the salt house from the killing field, about 500 yards from the village, and who ordered the Japanese to get into his wagon, menacing them with a heavy whip when they demurred. Two of them were of the lowest type of Japanese. The leader, a young man, was brighter, but displayed no more intelligence than could be expected of a boat steerer who could box a compass. The three of them, by turns, fell asleep in my office whilst I was examining them.

They had quite heavy packs on their backs when they arrived, composed of clothing, ammunition box filled with shotgun shells—some empty and some loaded—two shotguns, and boat compass.

They were examined first by Agent Judge, who happened to be near the team on its arrival with the Japanese. Taking them to a chart of the island on the wall of the shop, he indicated to them that he wished them to state the point on the island where they landed. The leader without hesitation pointed to a spot on the north shore. He then traced a course with his finger thence to Halfway Point, on the south side of the island, and thence along the wagon road to the

village. Examination by watchmen sent out immediately after showed the boat in which the Japanese landed to be in the place indicated by the leader, and the tracks of their sandals plainly visible on the trail proved the course traveled by them to be the same as stated.

The place where these men landed was miles away from the nearest rookery and uninhabited. The interior of the island across which they journeyed is also uninhabited, which accounts for their not having been discovered sooner. The natives available for guard duty are so few that they can be stationed only on rookeries. Had these Japanese landed on a rookery it would have been a different matter.

The Japanese leader could speak no English, but enunciated plainly the name of his ship—the *Eun Maru*. He made vigorous motions showing that he complained of harsh treatment on his ship, holding up his hands as if he were jacked up to the mast, and striking violently to indicate beating.

He also made signs that he wanted food. Accordingly they were taken into the company's kitchen, where they were fed, and where they met the Chinese cook, who endeavored by writing Chinese characters on paper and showing them to the Japanese to obtain some information. The Japanese, after reading these characters wrote others in reply, but neither seemed to understand much, if any, of what the other wrote.

These men were given quarters in a vacant native house and were fed from the company's kitchen. A guard was placed over them to insure that they did not roam about the village. On the 20th the cutter *Perry* appeared near the village, and on being signaled came in to the anchorage. After explanation I turned the Japanese over to Capt. Dunwoody, stating that in my opinion they were deserters. In that belief he concurred.

On what evidence Capt. Dunwoody now asserts his belief that these men were spies and not deserters I am unable to discover. Had they been spies they could in the fog have made what examination of the island they desired without fear of discovery, so long as they did not show themselves to the watchmen, and could then have returned to the ship. In place of this they hauled up their boat, laid a course directly across the island until they found a beaten road, which they followed to the village, walking in a trail where the soft earth showed plainly their footsteps. This surely is not the action of spies.

Furthermore, from an examination of their kits it appeared that they had brought with them about all the clothing they possessed, several suits of clothes apiece and changes of underclothing. Had they desired to return to their ship with information, this action of bringing all their clothing to the village would have been absurd.

The best evidence to me, however, that they were not spies is the fact that they came to the village armed. No wide-awake spy would prowl about the heart of the enemy's country and directly into his camp with arms in his hands. Had they blundered upon the island guards stationed on the rookeries, they would have been shot, as these guards take no chances with armed strangers.

The rational and natural conclusion, from a consideration of all the circumstances, is that these men, common ignorant sailors, had a difficulty with the officers of the schooner, and finding themselves close to land took a sailor's chance to escape the oppression on board

ship. No other conclusion is justified by the known facts. At the time when they landed, 23 schooners and over 30 small boats were in sight of the island close to shore, taking seals. Averaging 40 men to a schooner this would indicate a total of 920 men. Out of this number it is easy to believe that there were at least three men ready to desert and willing to take an opportunity when offered.

During my service on the islands, one boatload of Japanese and several boatloads of Canadian sealers landed in distress, having, as they claimed, lost their schooner in the fog. These men were carefully examined on the islands by myself, which examination was supplemented by further questioning on board the cutters. In none of these cases did anything appear except that the sailors had lost their schooners, and action in their cases was taken similar to that in the case of the three men under consideration.

In July, 1906, however, I arrested a boatload of six Japanese who without any doubt came ashore for the purpose either of killing seals or of finding out where they could be obtained. These men were bright and quick-witted, and upon apprehension produced a story at once plausible and yet so inconsistent with the circumstances of their landing that it proved itself untrue. These men were convicted at Valdez of an attempt to kill seals. They had no arms or clothing, and intended returning to their vessel as soon as they had finished what they desired to do on land.

The Japanese who have been ashore in past years had ample means of finding out what there was on the island of interest to know, and of reporting to the trade. Furthermore, accurate charts of the islands showing the location of rookeries, villages, watch houses, and roads are common property, and are in the hands of every Japanese sealing skipper. It is entirely unnecessary to send men ashore to find out what those charts show with mathematical accuracy.

I must conclude that Capt. Dunwoody's belief that these men were spies is not warranted by the facts.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION OF REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, November 30, 1907.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of a communication dated the 20th instant from Capt. F. M. Dunwoody, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the revenue cutter *Perry*, in relation to three Japanese castaways on St. Paul Island, who are supposed to have been spies.

Respectfully,

J. H. EDWARDS,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE CUTTER "PERRY,"
Port Townsend, Wash., November 20, 1907.

Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Port Townsend, Wash.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN: I respectfully call your attention to my report dated July 26, 1907, wherein reference is made to Government Agent Lembkey at St. Paul Island coming on board and reporting that there were three Japanese castaways on shore whom he wished removed from the island; that they were received on board and subsequently transferred to a Japanese sealing schooner.

It was difficult to obtain any definite information from the castaways as to the name of the vessel to which they belonged. As they were all supplied with bundles containing extra clothing, it was supposed that they were deserters from some sealing vessel. They landed on the northwest side of St. Paul Island, walked along the shore to the northeast, and crossed over to the east side of the island, stopped over night at the old watchhouse near Halfway Point, and the following day were overtaken on the road by a native driving a team on his way from Northeast Point to the village. The native invited them to get into the wagon, which they did, and were taken to the village, turned over to the Government agent, who took charge of them until the arrival of the *Perry*. It is believed now that these supposed castaways were spies, landed for the purpose to reconnoiter and obtain information of existing conditions on the island. They appeared quite anxious to go aboard the first sealing vessel fallen in with by the *Perry*, two days after they were received on board.

The newspapers have reported that raids were made upon the Commander Islands by the Japanese sealers, some of whom had equipped their vessels with 3-pounder rapid-fire guns, and that some of the Japanese sealers about the Pribilof Islands were similarly equipped. It is believed that it was the intention of the Japanese to raid the rookeries on St. Paul Island during the past season, and that they were only prevented from doing so by the vigilance of the vessels engaged in the patrolling and guarding of the islands.

Respectfully,

F. M. DUNWOODY,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S., Commanding.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., *November 22, 1907.*

Respectfully forwarded for the information of the department.

F. M. MUNGER,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S.

[Memorandum for Mr. Lembkey.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 27, 1907.

The Secretary wishes to be advised of the action taken in this matter, in connection with which a previous communication on the same subject was referred to you a few days ago.

T. L. WEED, *Private Secretary.*

NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
832 OCTAVIA STREET,
San Francisco, Cal., December 9, 1907.

SIR: I have private information to the effect that, within a few days, the Victoria Sealing Co. will decide whether or not to place a number of its pelagic sealing vessels under the Japanese flag.

Very respectfully,

H. H. TAYLOR.

To the Honorable ELIHU ROOT,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

[Memorandum in re the contemplated placing of a number of Canadian sealing schooners under the Japanese flag.]

The action stated in the inclosed letter to be contemplated by the Victoria Sealing Co. will be taken for the purpose of evading the provisions of the regulations contained in the award of the tribunal of arbitration, constituted under the treaty concluded at Washington February 29, 1892, between the United States and Great Britain (commonly known as the Paris Award).

These regulations are binding equally upon the citizens of the United States and the subjects of Great Britain, and provide, in brief:

(*a*) That fur seals shall not be killed, captured, or pursued at any time or in any manner within a zone of 60 miles around the Pribilof Islands.

(*b*) That fur seals shall not be killed, captured, or pursued in any manner between May 1 and July 31 of each year in that part of the Pacific Ocean north of latitude 35 N. and east of longitude 180.

(*c*) Sailing vessels only shall be used.

(*d*) Firearms, nets, and explosives, in capturing fur seal, are forbidden in Bering Sea.

Since the promulgation of the Paris Award, mentioned above, the citizens of Japan have actively engaged in the killing of fur seals in the water. The Japanese fleet in Bering Sea now numbers annually about 35 vessels, as against 9 to 15 vessels in the Canadian fleet.

As before stated, the regulations of the Paris tribunal are binding only upon Great Britain and the United States. They do not bind Japan. As a consequence, Japanese hunters pursue seals during the entire year, and where they are most plentiful, namely, just outside the 3-mile limit about the Pribilof Islands, where the breeding rookeries are situated. In so doing, they have a great advantage over the Canadian hunters, and have seriously interfered with the latter's catch.

By placing their vessels under the Japanese flag, the Canadians evade the regulations of the Paris tribunal in the following matters, against which, as concerns the Canadians, an absolute prohibition is now running:

(*a*) Taking seals in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean between May 1 and July 31.

(*b*) Hunting within 60 miles of the Pribilofs.

(*c*) Using firearms in Bering Sea.

Should this transfer be made, the question will arise whether, under international law, the contemplated evasion is of such a nature as would sustain a protest from this Government to Great Britain.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

DECEMBER 27, 1907.

[Memorandum in re the anticipated proposition of the Victoria Sealing Co. to dispose of its fleet to the United States.]

Pelagic sealing is the destructive agency in the fur-seal industry, because the pelagic catch is composed mainly of females.

Pelagic sealing was nominal from 1868 to 1880. From 1881, however, when 10,000 skins were taken by pelagic hunters, the catch increased annually until 1884, when 61,838 were secured. The increase in pelagic sealing had direct relation to the diminution in the number of seals on the rookeries, because of the killing of female seals, as above stated.

Pelagic sealing was carried on first by Canadian and American sealers. The citizens of no other nation were engaged in the practice until, approximately, 1900, when a few Japanese sealing schooners began frequenting Bering Sea.

Efforts by this Government to save the seals led, naturally, to attempts to secure the abandonment of the practice of pelagic sealing. The first step of importance was in 1892, when Great Britain and the United States, by treaty, agreed to submit to arbitration certain differences growing out of the seizure of Canadian vessels in Bering Sea by United States revenue cutters. Before this tribunal of arbitration, known usually as the Paris tribunal, the United States alleged that Bering Sea was a closed sea and that this Government had a property right in the fur seals. These questions were decided adversely to the United States, but the tribunal promulgated a series of regulations designed to relieve the practice of unusual cruelty and to afford a protection to the animals while breeding. To this end, among other less essential requirements, a closed season was established between May 1 and August 1 of each year, during which no seals were to be killed in the water, and a prohibited zone of 60 miles surrounding the Pribilof Islands, in which pelagic sealing was not to be practiced at any time.

The tribunal provided also that the regulations made by it—

shall be submitted every five years to a new examination so as to enable both interested Governments to consider whether, in the light of past experience, there is occasion for any modification thereof. (Art. IX.)

In "the light of past experience" it is apparent that the 60-mile zone about the islands is entirely inadequate for the protection of the breeding seals, as the latter go from 100 to 200 miles away from the islands to known feeding grounds in search of food. Neither has the British Government been willing to allow a reopening of the question, under the regulations of the Paris tribunal, claiming that it saw no reason for a reconsideration of the matter.

American citizens, by the act of December 29, 1897, were forbidden absolutely to kill seals in any portion of the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude.

Reduced catches by the Canadian fleet, due to a decided falling off in the seal herd, have been made in recent years. The various Canadian owners formed a company known as the Victoria Sealing Co. (Ltd.), effecting by this merger a reduction in operating expenses of schooners and a small profit out of the business even with smaller catches. The number of the operating schooners also was gradually reduced until the active fleet composes now only about 15 schooners, as opposed to approximately 35 ten years ago.

The Japanese fleet, however, has increased from year to year until, in 1897, practically 35 of their vessels operated in Bering Sea in 1907.

Russia also has seal islands and has suffered from pelagic sealing even more than the United States. Russia, however, never allowed her subjects to engage in pelagic sealing and has always been ready to cooperate with the United States to abolish the practice.

As the situation stands, therefore, there are four countries vitally interested in the sealing industry:

The United States owns large breeding rookeries (Pribilof Islands); prohibits her subjects from engaging in pelagic sealing.

Russia owns large breeding rookeries (the Commander Islands); prohibits pelagic sealing.

Japan owns a small breeding rookery, the Kurile Islands, and permits her subjects to engage in pelagic sealing; her fleet numbers probably 35 vessels.

Great Britain owns no breeding rookeries; allows pelagic sealing by her subjects. Operates probably 12 or 15 pelagic schooners. Vitally interested in the dressing and dyeing of sealskins, as all such work is done in London.

From the above it can be seen that the two agencies destructive to the life of the seal herd are the two pelagic fleets of Japan and Great Britain, and that, of the two, that of Japan is by far the most destructive, as it numbers over twice that of Canada and operates without any of the restrictions as to time and place that circumscribe the operations of the Canadian fleet.

Before Japan became a factor in pelagic sealing, there was a movement by this Government, through the high joint commission, to purchase outright the paraphernalia of the Victoria Sealing Co. and to compensate Canada for the abandonment of her so-called "national right" to engage in pelagic sealing. These efforts were abortive, due to the desire of Canada to reap some substantial advantage in the settlement of the boundary question by withholding her consent to the settlement of the seal question, even on terms very favorable to her. Since that time the Japanese fleet has sprung into existence and has far outstripped the Canadian fleet in numbers and destructiveness to the herd.

It is obvious, therefore, that no lasting advantage would accrue to this Government by the purchase of the Canadian fleet, with the Japanese fleet still in existence. Such action would result merely in increasing the catch of the Japanese fleet and would have no result in saving the seal herd. It could have no advantage, save as a factor in a general settlement among all four great nations involved, in which case each must agree not only to prohibit pelagic sealing by its citizens, but to combine to induce a general agreement to abstain from this practice on the part of the remaining nations that now have no interest in the seals.

If Canada should be compensated for the abandonment of the business, it is obvious that Japan also must receive some appropriate remuneration, otherwise she will not agree to prevent her subjects from continuing to take seals. A settlement with Canada, which does not at least involve Japan, would be of no advantage to this country and would be simply a waste of money.

If, as the inclosed letter states, the representative of the Canadian sealing industry is to sound this Government on the question of

"selling out" to the United States, I would suggest that he be informed—

1. That this Government would not consider any change in the present sealing regulations giving Canada the same advantages as Japan.

2. That it must be obvious to him that no advantage would accrue to the United States by purchasing either the Canadian fleet or their future abstention from pelagic sealing, since this action would give merely a greater advantage to Japan.

3. That the purchase of the Canadian fleet could be considered only in connection with an international settlement of the question of pelagic sealing, in which Japan and Russia, as well as Great Britain and the United States, were involved, and then, only as one of the incidents of settlement, provided a satisfactory understanding with Japan could be reached.

4. Suggest that the Canadian Government use its weight with Great Britain to obtain such a settlement, which, without doubt, would have in it something of substantial benefit to the Victoria Sealing Co.

———— ————,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

SEPTEMBER, 1907.
DECEMBER?

PART II. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO REVENUE-CUTTER PATROL.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, June 4, 1907.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a telegram, dated June 1, received from Capt. D. J. Ainsworth, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the revenue cutter *Rush*, in relation to the seizure of the sealing schooner *Carlotta G. Cox*, of Victoria, British Columbia, and the reply of this department to the same.

Your attention is called especially to that part of the telegram reporting the taking of 735 fur seals by Japanese sealers. The unrestricted activity of Japanese sealing vessels in Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, within the prohibited area agreed upon between Great Britain and the United States by the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration, threatens seriously the depletion of the seal herd. It is suggested that the matter be brought to the attention of the Japanese Government with a view of securing the better protection of the fur seals in that region.

Respectfully,

J. B. REYNOLDS,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy of telegram.]

SITKA, ALASKA, *June 1, 1907.*

SECRETARY TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.:

Rush arrived Sitka, having towed British sealing schooner *Carlotta G. Cox*, of Victoria, from Fairweather Grounds, latitude 59° 10′ north, longitude 141° 19′ west, Mount St. Elias north 18° west magnetic 68.9 miles. Schooner flies distinguished flag. Has special sealing license, 14 double-barrel shotguns, 1 automatic shotgun, 1 automatic rifle, 77 fur-seal skins, 6 of which are very green and bloody in salt brine, evidently taken since May 25 last. Master claims they were all caught not later than April 30 last. He has no official log book, but his notebook shows last seals taken April 27 last. His Victoria clearance, dated January 29, 1907, reads: "Stores and sealing outfit," and gives no port of destination. Master claims his vessel bound to Kadaik or the Shamagin Islands for orders. Informed master that his schooner would be detained and towed to Sitka, and the United States Government at Washington telegraphed for instructions. Shall I seize schooner and send or tow to Victoria or deliver to deputy United States marshal at Sitka for him to take to Victoria? Shall I proceed to Juneau for Cobb cannery cruiser, return in search of two British and one American sealers reported by crew of *Cox* to be in vicinity where that sealing schooner was found, but they were not sighted by *Rush*. Three Japanese sealers boarded near vicinity where *Cox* was found, had total of 735 fur seals on board. Japanese report fur seals very plentiful that vicinity. Await instructions.

AINSWORTH.

[Copy of telegram.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 3, 1907.

Capt. AINSWORTH,
Revenue Cutter "Rush," Sitka, Alaska:

Take seized sealing schooner *Cox* to Port Simpson and deliver her to British authorities there. If no proper British authorities in Port Simpson, send schooner to Victoria in charge of warrant officer and necessary seamen. Give authorities statement in writing of facts on which you rely to show that seals were taken illegally with names of witnesses. Return immediately and search for other sealers and take Cobb at Juneau June 12. If board of local steamboat inspectors desire to go on *Rush*, take them. Acknowledge.

BEEKMAN WINTHROP,
Assistant Secretary.

DECEMBER 18, 1907.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, transmitting copy of a letter from Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, relating to the operations of the Canadian pelagic sealing fleet on the northwest coast in 1907.

The letter mentioned states the fact of the seizure by the *Rush* of the Canadian schooner *Carlotta G. Cox* on May 27 last. I shall be

grateful for any information regarding the outcome of that case that you may furnish.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

OSCAR S. STRAUS, *Secretary.*

Hon. GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION OF REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 1, 1907.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a telegram dated Unalaska, Alaska, June 18, 1907, from Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, in charge of the Bering Sea patrol, reporting the bringing in of the Japanese sealer *Miya Maru* and the release of the vessel.

Respectfully,

J. B. REYNOLDS,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy of telegram.]

UNALASKA, ALASKA, *June 18, 1907.*

SECRETARY TREASURY,
Washington, D. C. (via San Francisco):

June 17 *Perry* brought in Japan sealer *Miya Maru.* Found her five boats equipped with sealing outfit territorial waters near St. Paul. No skins or bodies of seals in boats. In my opinion evidence not sufficient to convict. Released *Miya Maru.* *Perry* towed her to sea 18th. Letter follows.

MUNGER.

[Copy.]

UNALASKA, ALASKA, *July 6, 1907.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to forward report of commanding officer U. S. S. *Manning* relating to seizure of Japanese sealing schooners *Nitto Maru* and *Kaiwo*, for taking fur seals, in territorial waters near St. Paul Island. The *Perry*, returning for coal, brought the two vessels into port.

Considering the evidence sufficient to convict, I held the vessels and turned them and their crews over to the United States deputy marshal.

To have an early decision and to prevent unnecessary delay, I will send the crew of both vessels on the *Manning*, in care of the marshal, to Unga, on the 16th instant; there to appear before the United States commissioner for adjudication.

The seizure was made under authority of Revised Statutes, 1956, 1961, and amendments.

The North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer* leaves San Francisco July 25; any communication forwarded in their care will reach here about August 5.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. M. MUNGER,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "MANNING,"
Off St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 3, 1907.

Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: I have the honor to report the seizure this day of the Japanese schooner *Nitto Maru,* of Miyako, Satura Watanuki, master, and the Japanese schooner *Kaiwo,* of Tokyo, Iegiro Kadata, master, both found engaged in taking seals within 3 geographical miles of St. Paul Island, Alaska. The particulars of said seizure are as follows:

At 12.19 p. m., July 3, 1907, while cruising at an estimated distance of 3 miles from land on the western side of St. Paul Island, three schooners under reduced sail were observed about 5 miles offshore, and we stood to board them.

At 12.45 stopped and boarded the Japanese schooner *Nitto Maru,* Satura Watanuki, master, and was informed by him that he had seven boats away from the vessel engaged in taking seals, some of which were to the westward, some to the southward, and some to the eastward of his position. After giving the master of the *Nittu Maru* the customary warning not to take seals within 3 miles of land the boarding officer returned to the *Manning,* and we headed for a schooner bearing southeast from us.

At 1.25 p. m. stopped and boarded the Japanese schooner *Kompira Maru,* of Tokyo, and finding no evidence of illegal sealing on board the customary warning was given the master, and the boarding officer returned to the *Manning.*

At this time two boats were observed between us and Southwest Point, both being pulled hastily away from the land, and as soon as the boarding officer returned from the *Kompira Maru* we headed in for the boats. At 2.50 p. m. came up with two boats, both belonging to the schooner *Nittu Maru* and which came alongside at our request. One of the boats was found with one fresh sealskin in it, and the boat was equipped with the usual outfit for taking seals at sea, viz, shotguns, gigs, compass, water keg, and ammunition, in addition to the ordinary boat gear.

There were three Japanese men in the boat, their names being given as Shigitero Tanaka, Seizi Higashi, and K. Eragi. The position of the boat when the evidence of sealing was first noted was at a point at the intersection of a line drawn south-southeast ½ east to

the western tangent of Otter Island and one drawn east by south to the tangent of Southwest Point, St. Paul Island, the said point being distant from the western face of Southwest Point 1⅜ miles. A sounding taken at this moment showed 29 fathoms. In order to test the distance from shore completely, the boats were permitted to proceed to their vessel, the *Nitto Maru*, and the *Manning* was headed in for the land, with the patent log registering 22.3 knots. When we had run 1.3 knots the land was less than half a mile distant, showing no doubt that the position where the boats were examined is well within the 3-geographical-mile limit.

At this time a third boat was discovered lying in under the cliffs at an estimated distance of less than one-fourth mile from shore. We backed in as close as consistent with safety and blew three short blasts of the whistle. The people in the boat, aware of their being discovered, got out their oars and began pulling toward us. In a few moments they came alongside, and inquiry elicited the facts that the boat belonged to the Japanese schooner *Kaiwo*, of Tokyo, Iegiro Kadata, master, and was engaged in taking seals from the water. Two fresh sealskins and one dead unskinned fur seal were in the boat. The boat was equipped for sealing, having on board two shotguns, ammunition, gigs, compass, grub box, and water keg, in addition to the usual boat gear.

The position in which the *Kaiwo's* boat was examined was Southwest Point bearing east-northeast ⅝ east, distant 1 mile. There were three men in the boat, their names being given as follows: Gentaro Kumainto, Iakutaro Magasaki, and Kvojro Matsu.

The evidence of illegal sealing being considered complete to establish the guilt of the schooners *Nitto Maru* and *Kaiwo*, these vessels were accordingly overhauled and taken in tow. The sealskins and carcass of seal found in the respective boats were brought on board the *Manning* and properly tagged for identification.

The masters of the vessels were also brought on board the *Manning* as a precautionary measure and made as comfortable as possible. The ships' papers of both schooners were also taken and are forwarded herewith.

At 7.10 p. m., all the hunting boats of both schooners having returned, we headed for St. George Island, where it was my intention to turn over the vessels to Capt. Dunwoody, of the *Perry*, for delivery to you at Unalaska.

All courses and bearings herewith given are magnetic.

Respectfully,

(Signed) J. C. CANTWELL,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding.

P. S.—The positions of the vessels when taken in tow were as follows: *Nitto Maru*, latitude 57° 12′ N., longitude 170° 33′ W.; *Kaiwo*, latitude 57° 9′ 50″ N., longitude 170° 37′ W. I would also add that the masters of both vessels were given to understand that their schooners were not seized, but only detained for further decision.

The schooners were towed to Unalaska and together with their crews held in custody until my arrival at Unalaska, on August 4, 1907.

On August 7, 1907, the following orders were issued relative to the transferring of the Japanese for trial:

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Unalaska, Alaska, August 7, 1907.

COMMANDING OFFICER, UNITED STATES REVENUE CUTTER "MANNING,"
In Port.

SIR: On August 9, before noon, transfer to the *Manning* the captain and crew from both Japanese sealing schooners, viz, *Nitto Maru*, 29 men, *Kaiwo Maru*, 35 men; allow them to bring on board all their personal effects; these men to be transported to Valdez for trial. Do not allow any property belonging to the schooners to be removed from those vessels. Take on board all articles required in evidence—firearms, skins, etc. Proceed to sea at your discretion on the evening of August 9.

Mr. Ray, assistant district attorney, has charge of these cases and will accompany you to Valdez; confer with him and be governed by his advice in all matters pertaining thereto; assist him in all possible manner.

The district attorney has matters of importance that require a visit to St. Paul, Kodiak Island; on leaving here proceed direct to that place, and thence to Valdez or Seward, as directed by Mr. Ray.

In making the passage to and from your destination proceed with all dispatch, using three boilers; returned to Unalaska as soon as possible after your business has been transacted before the court.

Advise the department by cable of your arrival at destination.

Cable the department result of the trial.

Forty-eight hours before sailing cable department probable time of your departure.

Respectfully,

F. M. MUNGER,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S.,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

P. S.—If the district attorney desires to visit Alatak Bay, take him there before going to St. Paul.

On August 9, 1907, we left Unalaska for Valdez on the *Manning* with the Japanese.

On August 10 one of the Japanese died from beriberi and was buried at sea with all due formalities. This man had the best of medical skill and attention, Dr. Gardner, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, being detailed from the *McCulloch* to the *Manning*.

On August 12 visited Atalak Bay to investigate a reported robbing, pillaging, and burning of a native village there located. The facts found are incorporated in a telegram to the Attorney General, embodied herein, and despatched from Seward, at which place the *Manning* arrived on August 14, 1907.

The following is my cable to the Attorney General in regard to the Japanese:

July 3 cutter *Manning* found two small boats containing each three Japanese, within 3-mile limit, off Southwest Point, St. Paul Island; one containing skin of freshly killed seal, other usual sealing equipment only; both belonging to schooner *Nitto*, which vessel was 5 miles offshore St. Paul Island.

While testing distance another small boat with crew of 3 was found one-quarter mile off shore containing two skins from freshly killed seals and carcass of female seal still warm containing fœtus. This boat belonged to schooner *Kaiwo*, then distant 6 miles from shore. Schooner overhauled and *Nitto* had six boats lowered sealing not within limit; *Kaiwo* three boats lowered sealing outside limit.

Manning took schooners and small boats in custody and turned same over to *Perry* and thence towed to Unalaska, where I found *Kaiwo* with crew of 34 and *Nitto* with crew of 29 on August 4. Waited till August 9, repairs to *Manning*.

Schooners first sighted distant about 8 miles from island, and while *Manning* was on way to patrol around the island sealers worked in toward limit. Instead of circling island, as was customary, *Manning* retraced her course directly back from Northeast Point, found schooners near limit, boarded and warned captains, and while so doing discovered two small boats, as stated, which after developed belonged to schooner *Nitto*, rowing rapidly from toward shore. Weather conditions foggy and *Kaiwo* boat

discovered by accident. The unexpected return of *Manning* prevented raid by schooner crews, and these circumstances give rise to deduction that but for intervention attempt would have been carried to consummation.

Witnesses being officers of *Manning* have proceeded with her and 63 Japanese to Valdez, where we arrive to-morrow. Have ships' papers, but deemed best to hold schooners at Unalaska, as towage to Valdez hazardous and unnecessary; and should acquittal result Japanese can be placed on schooners and towed to nearest point of seizure.

Schooners now in custody United States Deputy Marshal Harman, awaiting issuance monition from district court.

Every reasonable care and attention has been given Japanese and the property taken. Evidence as to three small boats conclusive but weak as to other members of crews. One of *Kaiwo* crew died of beriberi and buried at sea August 10.

RAY, *Assistant Attorney.*

Upon our arrival at Valdez we found a session of the district court for the third judicial division, Territory of Alaska, Wickersham, judge, presiding, in progress, with grand jury in attendance.

On August 17, 1907, the department was informed by wire that 63 Japanese were indicted under Revised Statutes, 1961.

There were two indictments found—one against the captain of the schooner *Nitto* and his crew, the other against the captain of the schooner *Kaiwo* and his crew.

The following cablegrams give a concise statement of the result of the trials:

VALDEZ, ALASKA, *August 20, 1907.*

ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, D. C.:

Kaiwo case jury convicts 3 in small boat and acquits 31 who were in schooner outside limit. Instruct as to disposition of acquitted persons and as to schooner. Cutter *Manning* unable to return Japanese to Unalaska by reason of injury. Trial of *Nitto* crew proceeding.

RAY, *Assistant Attorney.*

VALDEZ, *August 21, 1907.*

ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, D. C.:

Captain of schooner *Nitto* and six defendants within jurisdictional limit convicted, Revised Statutes, 1961. Suggest immediate transfer remaining defendants Seattle for deportation. Have instituted proceedings against schooner *Nitto.*

RAY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *August 22, 1907.*

ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
Valdez, Alaska:

Telegram received acquitting. Japanese must be returned to their vessel. Wire best method and probable cost.

CHARLES J. BONAPARTE, *Attorney General.*

Following is reply to Attorney General:

VALDEZ, *August 22, 1907.*

ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, D. C.:

Recommend approval of forfeiture proceedings against schooner *Nitto*, transporting 22 acquitted Japanese of this crew Seattle for deportation.

Acquitted portion *Kaiwo* crew, 31 Japanese, transferred to Unalaska via steamer *Dora;* steerage fare, $39 each passenger.

Believe I should accompany to Unalaska to formally release *Kaiwo* schooner and save costs sending guards.

Unless revenue cutter can be procured, advise immediate orders or delay of 30 days before next steamer to Unalaska.

Court here adjourned.

RAY, *Assistant Attorney.*

On August 24 the following cablegram came forward:

WASHINGTON, D. C., *August 24, 1907.*

RAY, *Assistant United States Attorney,*
Valdez, Alaska:

Telegram August 22 received. Your recommendation regarding forfeiture proceedings approved. You are also authorized to go to Unalaska to formally release *Kaiwo* schooner, as you request.

COOLEY, *Acting Attorney General.*

In view of the conviction of the captain of the schooner *Nitto*, a libel in admiralty was filed in the United States court at Valdez praying for the condemnation of and a decree of forfeiture to the use of the United States of America against the schooner *Nitto*, her tackle, furniture, apparel, etc.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the cablegram of August 24 from Acting Attorney General Cooley, I left Valdez for Unalaska with the acquitted portion of the *Kaiwo* crew. On my return the following report was sent the Attorney General, which report fully covers this aspect of the affair:

SEWARD, *September 30, 1907.*

To the ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In the matter of the Japanese poaching cases.

The department has been advised as to the details in this matter up to the time of the departure of the crew of the *Kaiwo* from Valdez to Unalaska.

In accordance with instructions contained in your telegram of August 24, 1907, I proceeded on that date to Unalaska with the crew of the schooner *Kaiwo*, arriving there September 8.

On September 9 the schooner *Kaiwo* was formally released to her master, and he proceeded to prepare for sea. The master was asked if he wished to be towed to St. Paul Island, outside of the 3-mile limit, or out of the harbor. He replied that if he could be towed around the red buoy at Unalaska Harbor he would then be able to sail out of the harbor and desired no further assistance in reaching open water.

On September 10 the crew of the revenue cutter *Thetis*, assisted by residents of Unalaska, warped the *Kaiwo* down the harbor of Unalaska, around the red buoy, as requested, and the schooner set sail and stood out to sea.

During the period from July 3 (the date of seizure) to August 8 (the date when Japanese were transferred from Unalaska to United States Revenue Cutter Service *Manning* to Valdez) the Japanese furnished their own subsistence from their own stores, even though in custody. Because of this fact, upon my recommendation, the marshal's office at Unalaska furnished coal, water, and provisions to the schooner *Kaiwo* in lieu of provisions consumed during the period above stated.

Thirteen of the crew of the *Kaiwo* became mutinous and refused to proceed to sea unless American food was furnished them for the voyage to Japan, as they did not want any more Japanese provisions.

The captain of the *Kaiwo* stated that the supplies furnished by the marshal's office were sufficient in quantity, taking into consideration his own stores then unconsumed, to supply all the wants of his crew.

After having had some difficulty with his crew, the captain requested protection from these mutineers, as he feared personal violence. In accordance with this request, guards were stationed on the dock next the *Kaiwo* for the personal protection of the captain.

It was fully and satisfactorily explained to the Japanese captain that, as his ship was now ready for sea, the authorities could not take his refractory crew into custody, as requested by him, as it was obligatory upon him to take his men when ready for sea.

After the *Kaiwo* left the dock at Unalaska, 11 of the crew lowered a small boat and attempted to land. The captain called the attention of the officers of the revenue service to these men in the small boat, and at my request the officers compelled the deserting Japanese to return to their vessel.

The deserting Japanese stated that they would not proceed with the provisions they had, and that the captain of the *Kaiwo* was no good.

Every effort was made to minimize the detention, and the captain of the *Kaiwo* expressed himself as fully satisfied as to the supplies furnished and as to treatment, and regretted his inability to handle his crew.

Instructions previously cabled me have been followed, and every effort made to prevent any just ground of complaint as to treatment of persons or property.

Respectfully,

L. V. RAY,
Assistant United States Attorney.

The three convicted members of the *Kaiwo* crew are now serving their sentence at Valdez, which sentence will expire in January, 1908.

The captain and six convicted members of the *Nitto* crew paid their fines at Valdez and were afterwards sent forward to their schooner at Unalaska, sailing from that port on October 16, 1907.

At Unalaska supplies and provisions were furnished the *Nitto*, as in the case of the *Kaiwo*, by the marshal's office.

After some telegraphic correspondence the department deemed it best to revoke the approval of forfeiture proceedings against the schooner *Nitto*, and, consequently, the libel therefor was dismissed by the district attorney.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
DIVISION OF REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Washington, July 25, 1907.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a report dated Unalaska, Alaska, June 20, 1907, from Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, in charge of the Bering Sea patrol fleet, relative to matters connected with the operations of the fleet to that date.

Respectfully,

J. B. REYNOLDS,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy.]

UNALASKA, ALASKA, *June 20, 1907.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: 1. I have the honor to make the following report relating to matters connected with operations of Bering Sea fleet.

2. After leaving Port Townsend, the *Perry* touched at Victoria, for the purpose of obtaining information regarding Canadian sealers. I made an official call upon the United States consul and the collector of customs at that port. The collector was very kind and courteous, and confidentially gave me all the information he could relating to the sealers and their operations; he also furnished me with a list of vessels to which he had issued seal license for the season 1907.

3. He had been instructed by his department to look into the matter of the report of Mr. E. W. Sims, as to Canadian sealers being in Alaskan waters in 1906; he had the log of every British sealer, and knew the exact location of every vessel each day, during their absence; the latitude and longitude where every sealskin had been

taken from time of leaving until their return to Victoria; and there was no record of any vessel being on the coast until their return in the fall. The master of the vessels delivered these documents to the collector under oath; there was no inconsistencies in their log books that would indicate falsification, and he believed the masters were honest in their declaration. After a thorough investigation, the collector was of the opinion that it might be possible, but not probable, that any of the Canadian sealers were near the Alaska coast.

4. All the winter seal hunters had returned to port.

5. He had issued, to date, May 20, special sealing license to 15 vessels, and he thought he might issue a license to two or three other vessels; all these vessels were in port, except five, which had cleared to proceed directly beyond the one hundred and eightieth meridian, and on to the coast of Japan. The sealing vessels in port were to leave for Bering Sea about the middle of June.

6. The *Perry* arrived at Sitka May 23. I visited the collector of customs at that port, who informed me that the Indian seal hunters from Sitka had reported sealing vessels off the coast, but could give no definite information about them; was not near enough to read their names or hailing port. In view of department order relating to Canadian sealers, I deemed it of sufficient importance to wire the information to the department, with recommendation that the *Rush* be ordered to cruise in search of them. The *Perry's* officers kept a good lookout across the Fairweather Ground, but observed no vessels or seals. Not one seal was seen during the passage.

7. The *Perry* arrived here on May 31, and I established headquarters at the house of the Alaska Commercial Co.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. M. MUNGER,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
DIVISION OF REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Washington, July 29, 1907.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copies of reports received from Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding Bering Sea patrol fleet, and Capt. J. C. Cantwell, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the United States revenue cutter *Manning*, relative to the capture on the 3d instant of the Japanese sealing schooners *Nitto Maru* and *Kaiwo*.

Respectfully,

J. H. EDWARDS,
Acting Secretary.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "MANNING,"
Off St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 3, 1907.

Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: I have the honor to report the seizure this day of the Japanese schooner *Nitto Maru*, of Niyako, Satura Watanuki, master, and the Japanese schooner *Kaiwo*, of Tokyo, Iegiro Kadata, master, both found engaged in taking seals within 3 geographical miles of St. Paul Island, Alaska. The particulars of said seizure are as follows:

At 12.19 p. m., July 3, 1907, while cruising at an estimated distance of 3 miles from land on the western side of St. Paul Island, three schooners under reduced sail were observed about 5 miles offshore, and we stood to board them.

At 12.45 stopped and boarded the Japanese schooner *Nitto Maru*, Satura Watanuki, master, and was informed by him that he had seven boats away from the vessel engaged in taking seals, some of which boats were to the westward, some to the southward, and some to the eastward of his position. After giving the master of the *Nitto Maru* the customary warning not to take seals within 3 miles of land, the boarding officer returned to the *Manning* and we headed for a schooner bearing southeast from us.

At 1.25 p. m. stopped and boarded the Japanese schooner *Kompira Maru*, of Tokyo, and finding no evidence of illegal sealing on board, the customary warning was given the master, and the boarding officer returned to the *Manning*.

At this time two boats were observed between us and Southwest Point, both being pulled hastily away from the land, and as soon as the boarding officer returned from the *Kompira Maru* we headed in for the boats. At 2.50 p. m. came up with two boats, both belonging to the schooner *Nitto Maru* and which came alongside at our request. One of the boats was found with one fresh sealskin in it, and the boat was equipped with the usual outfit for taking seals at sea, viz, shotguns, gigs, compass, water keg, and ammunition, in addition to the ordinary boat gear.

There were three Japanese men in the boat, their names being given as Shigitero Tanaka, Seizi Higashi, and K. Eragi. The position of the boat when the evidence of sealing was first noted was at a point at the intersection of a line drawn south-southeast one-half east to the western tangent of Otter Island and one drawn east by south to the tangent of Southwest Point, St. Paul Island, the said point being distant from the western face of Southwest Point $1\frac{3}{8}$ miles. A sounding was taken at the moment; showed 29 fathoms. In order to test the distance from shore completely, the boats were permitted to proceed to their vessel, the *Nitto Maru*, and the *Manning* was headed in for the land with the patent log registering 22.8 knots. When we had run 1.3 knots the land was less than a half a mile distant, showing without doubt that the position where the boats were examined is well within the 3-geographical-mile limit.

At this time a third boat was discovered lying in under the cliffs at an estimated distance of less than one-fourth mile from shore. We backed in as close as consistent with safety and blew three short blasts of the whistle. The people in the boat, aware of their being dis-

covered, got out their oars and began pulling toward us. In a few moments they came alongside, and inquiry elicited the facts that the boat belonged to the Japanese schooner *Kaiwo*, of Tokyo, Iegiro Kadata, master, and was engaged in taking seals from the water. There were two fresh fur-seal skins and one unskinned dead fur seal in the boat. The boat was equipped for sealing, having on board two shotguns, ammunition, gigs, compass, grub box, and water keg, in addition to the usual boat gear.

The position in which the *Kaiwo's* boat was examined was southwest point bearing east-northeast five-eighths east distant 1 mile. There were three men in the boat, their names being given as follows: Gentaro Kumainoto, Iakutaro Nagasaki, and Kvojro Matsu.

The evidence of illegal sealing being considered complete to establish the guilt of the schooners *Nitto Maru* and *Kaiwo*, these vessels were accordingly overhauled and taken in tow. The sealskins and carcass of seal found in the respective boats were brought on board the *Manning* and properly tagged for identification.

The masters of the vessels were also brought on board the *Manning* as a precautionary measure, and made as comfortable as possible. The ships' papers of both schooners were also taken and are forwarded herewith.

At 7.10 p. m., all the hunting boats of both schooners having returned, we headed for St. George Island, where it was my intention to turn over the vessels to Capt. Dunwoody of the *Perry* for delivery to you at Unalaska.

All courses and bearings herewith given are magnetic.

Respectfully,

J. C. CANTWELL,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S., Commanding.

P. S.—The positions of the vessels when taken in tow were as follows: *Nitto Maru*, latitude 57° 12′ N., longitude 170° 33′ W; *Kaiwo*, latitude 57° 9′ 50″ N., longitude 170° 37′ W. I would also add that the masters of both vessels were given to understand that their schooners were not seized, but only detained for your further decision.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION OF REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, November 29, 1907.

The honorable SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information a report dated the 15th instant from Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, in relation to the lawless acts said to have been committed by the crew of a Japanese sealing schooner at Kadiak Island in June last.

Respectfully,

J. B. REYNOLDS,
Acting Secretary.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Port Townsend, Wash., November 15, 1907.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have to acknowledge receipt (October 11) of department letter dated August 23, inclosing copy of letter from Joseph A. Silverman, United States commissioner at Kodiak, also from the deputy collector of customs at that port, relating to certain alleged lawless acts by the crew of a Japanese schooner, and in reply I have the honor to submit the following report:

My first information in regard to this matter was received from Assistant United States District Attorney L. V. Ray, who came to Unalaska August 4 in connection with the prosecution of Japanese seal poachers. Mr. Ray had received information on his way to Unalaska, in substance the same as is contained in the letter of J. A. Silverman to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the original of which is hereby returned.

In order that the matter might be immediately investigated, the *Manning*, being there ready to start for Valdez with Japanese prisoners, was ordered to stop in Alitak Bay on the way east in order that Mr. Ray, the district attorney, might himself examine into the alleged depredations.

The *Manning* arrived in Alitak Bay on August 12, and Capt. Cantwell and Mr. Ray went ashore to make inquiry, but they found the village entirely deserted, all the inhabitants being at the cannery some 15 miles inland. As it was necessary to get the Japanese prisoners on board the *Manning* to Valdez for immediate trial it was considered best not to go inland to the cannery, as this would cause considerable delay, and the *Manning* therefore left immediately for Valdez.

While returning from Valdez, Lieut. Austin had an interview with Capt. Falstad, of the American schooner *Alice*, of Kodiak, and obtained from him a statement in substance as follows:

That he, Capt. Falstad, anchored in Lazy Bay, an arm of Alitak Bay, on or about the 20th of June; that he saw several Japanese boats manned by Japanese pulling out of the harbor on which the village of Ahkiok is situated; that these boats pulled out to a Japanese schooner which was anchored in the bay, which shortly afterwards got under way and went out to sea; that while beating into the bay he had noticed men ashore evidently on lookout duty, one at Alitak Point, and another up on the hill nearer the village, whom he thinks were Japanese; that he could not read the name of the schooner, as her name was covered either intentionally or otherwise by a piece of canvas hanging over the stem, but that he would recognize her if he should see her again; that he distinctly saw two white men on the schooner, evidently in command of her; that about five weeks later he took the deputy United States marshal of Kodiak to Ahkiok, on the schooner *Alice*, interviewed the natives through an interpreter, and learned that the marauders had broken into the houses and taken men and women's clothing, trinkets, jewelry, and everything of value they could find; that all articles of furniture, etc., in the church had been collected in one pile, but for some reason had been left in the building; that in his opinion all this was the work of the Japanese

schooner, whose boats had been seen coming out of the harbor on or about the 20th of June, and which went to sea on that day.

To further investigate this matter, I visited Alitak Bay in person on my way from Unalaska to Juneau on the *Rush*.

The *Rush* anchored in the harbor of Ahkiok village on the evening of October 19, and several natives came off to us immediately. None of them could speak English, but one of them spoke Russian, and by means of an interpreter the following information was obtained.

The native, Jacob Ayahgoosha by name, stated that from the 1st of June until about the middle of August the village of Ahkiok had been entirely deserted by its native inhabitants, so that so far as any direct knowledge on their part goes the depredations might have been committed any time from the 1st of June until the middle of August. He stated that the Canadian schooner *Casco*, of Victoria, was anchored in Lazy Bay in August, after the return of the natives from the cannery, and that he learned from the captain and mate of the *Casco* that they—the *Casco*—had been in Lazy Bay in July; that a Japanese schooner called the *Toyo Maru* was in Lazy Bay at that time. He also stated that the captain and mate of the *Casco* had told him that this *Toyo Maru* was the schooner which had committed the robbery. He stated that the only evidence which he had that satisfied him that there were Japanese ashore was a cigarette holder such as are used by the Japanese.

He stated that the robbers had broken open houses, chests, and trunks, and had taken men and women's clothing, watches, jewelry, etc.

There is no record of a Japanese sealing schooner named *Toyo Maru* as having been in Bering Sea; there were two vessels having similar names, viz, *Toye Maru No. 1* and *Toye Maru No. 2*, the first named being boarded by the *Perry* off Pribilof Islands July 18.

Referring to the fourth paragraph of the commissioner and the third paragraph of the letter of the Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor, it will be seen they are mistaken, as the *McCulloch* did not seize a vessel during the season, and the *Miya Maru* was seized by the *Perry* June 13 near the Pribilof Islands, and was released at Unalaska June 18, so could not have been at Kodiak Island June 20.

It is evident that the lawless acts complained of were committed, but I believe it impossible at this time to name the guilty parties.

Respectfully,

F. M. MUNGER,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION OF REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 16, 1907.

The honorable SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a letter dated the 29th ultimo from Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, who commanded the Bering Sea patrol fleet the past season, relating to sealing operations in Bering Sea, season of 1907.

Respectfully,

J. H. EDWARDS, *Acting Secretary.*

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Port Townsend, Wash., November 29, 1907.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report relating to sealing operations in Bering Sea during the season of 1907:

Sealing license was issued to 15 Canadian sealing vessels, and it is thought that all were in Bering Sea; none were seen by the cutter fleet; three were boarded by H. M. S. *Shearwater* and one by the *Buffalo*. The catch of fur-seal skins is not known, but it is reported to be small. Several of these vessels remained in the sea as late as October 26. The Canadian sealers operated about 75 miles to the eastward of the Pribilof Islands between the compass points northeast and southeast.

It was reported that there were 30 Japanese sealing schooners in the sea; of this number the cutters boarded 25 different vessels, and report a catch of 4,444 fur-seal skins. This, I think, represents a greater part of the number taken.

The Japanese sealers came into the sea in May and June and operated about the Pribilof Islands. Eleven Japanese seal-fishing vessels have operated in the vicinity of Attu since 1905.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. M. MUNGER,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION OF REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 16, 1907.

The honorable SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a letter dated the 29th ultimo from Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, who commanded the Bering Sea patrol fleet the past season, relating to Canadian sealers operating on the Alaskan coast, season of 1907.

Respectfully,

J. H. EDWARDS,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Port Townsend, Wash., November 29, 1907.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report, relating to Canadian sealing schooners, operating on the Alaskan coast during the closed season May 1 to August 1, 1907.

From information received it is undoubtedly true that several Canadian vessels were operating unlawfully; one of them, the *Carlotta*

G. Cox, was seized by the *Rush* May 27. The *Rush* on that same date boarded the Japanese sealing schooner *Kinsie Maru;* on June 21, the master of this vessel informed me that he had seen the Canadian sealers *Ella G.* and *Casco*, the day of the seizure of the *Cox*, and that he was quite sure that there were several others operating at that time. The *Casco* visited Alitak Bay in July, and again in August, and I was informed by the natives that she was engaged in otter hunting.

July 18, the *Manning* left for a cruise to visit all the harbors on the mainland and outlying islands as far east as Cape St. John to search for Canadian sealing vessels; returned to Unalaska July 29. The commanding officer reported that he had visited all the harbors as indicated, and the only information obtained was as follows: One Canadian schooner, name unknown, called at Northeast anchorage, Little Koniuski Island, on July 21, watered ship and left same date; that one schooner, supposed to be a sealer, passed through Unalga Pass, 5 a. m., July 28, bound north.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. M. MUNGER,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S.

PART III. COMMENTS ON CERTAIN CHARGES MADE BY HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

[Synopsis of Elliott's charges against North American Commercial Co. before Ways and Means Committee, Jan. 14, 1907.]

On December 24, 1899, Secretary Windom issued advertisement for bids sealing right.

On February 21, 1890, bids opened by committee.

On February 24, 1890, Secretary Windom gave notice that North American Commercial Co. was successful bidder, and unless cause shown, would award lease to it.

Whereupon, Geo. R. Tingle, formerly Treasury agent, declared North American Commercial Co.'s bid ineligible because president and stockholders of that company had been and were engaged in pelagic sealing.

Upon being notified of this charge, Isaac Liebes, president of North American Commercial Co., under oath, denied charges.

March 12, 1890, Tingle then withdrew charges, and Windom executed lease to North American Commercial Co.

On April 1, 1890, Tingle enters employment North American Commercial Co. as superintendent.

Elliott then produces a copy of a sworn certificate in the custom-house in San Francisco, dated March 29, 1890, by Herman Liebes, brother and partner in the fur business of Isaac Liebes, that said Herman was the owner of a pelagic schooner named *J. Hamilton Lewis*.

Elliott then quotes House Document No. 1 (57th Cong., 2d sess., p. 120, Exhibit A), that Herman Liebes sold to H. Liebes & Co. all interest in the schooner *J. Hamilton Lewis*, on September 17, 1890.

Elliott then quotes the same document, page 203, from a copy of the certificate of registry, sworn to before the collector of customs at San Francisco, on January 10, 1890, to the effect that Herman Liebes on that date was the sole owner of the schooner mentioned, and that

Alex. McLean was the master and a citizen of the United States. Elliott shows that, in afterward, this Alex. McLean, to evade arrest by this Government for piracy, swears that he was and always has been a British subject.

Elliott then shows that this schooner, the *J. Hamilton Lewis*, went to the Russian side of Bering Sea in 1891, was seized by the Russian authorities August 10, 1891, and condemned. Whereupon Herman Liebes files an oath in San Francisco before the courts that he was the owner of this vessel when she was seized for lawfully killing seals upon the high seas. A case is made up for submission to The Hague which was so submitted in 1898, in which this Government claimed damages from the Russian Government for the unlawful seizure on the high seas of the *J. Hamilton Lewis*, in which case H. H. D. Pearce, Assistant Secretary of State, appears as counsel for this Government. As the result of this submission to The Hague an award of $50,000 was made to this Government to be paid by Russia for the unlawful seizure of the *J. Hamilton Lewis*, in 1902. In 1903, Assistant Secretary Pearce obtains an injunction against the United States Treasurer Roberts restraining him from paying this amount to the owners of the *J. Hamilton Lewis* until Pearce's charges for services as counsel before The Hague in the case have been paid to him out of the award.

Elliott then charges perjury on the part of the North American Commercial Co. because its first president, Isaac Liebes, swore he had no interest in pelagic schooners in 1890, whereas the record shows that his partner, Herman Liebes, was the owner of the *J. Hamilton Lewis* at the time Isaac's oath was made. (Note: Elliott does not show any connection of Herman Liebes with the North American Commercial Co.)

Elliott then charges perjury against Herman Liebes in swearing in 1890 that Alexander McLean, the captain of the *J. Hamilton Lewis*, was an American citizen, whereas said McLean, in order to avoid arrest by this Government in 1905 for piracy, swore that he (McLean) was a British subject. (Note: Elliott does not show that Herman Liebes, when he made oath in 1890 to the American citizenship of McLean, knew that said McLean was other than an American citizen.) Upon this episode, Elliott claims that the award of The Hague in the case of the *J. Hamilton Lewis* was obtained through fraud.

Memorandum for Assistant Secretary Murray:

You were not present at that afternoon session of the Ways and Means Committee, January 25, 1907, when I proceeded with my reply to the attempt made by the lessees to discredit me in the morning of the same day. You did not, therefore, observe the nervous anxiety of the Hon. Sereno E. Payne, and the feverish interest taken in me by the Hon. Grosvenor.

The inclosed statement which I have recently given to Canadian officialism and readers generally explains the painful interest which those gentlemen aforesaid had in me, and, incidentally, the facts may be of service to the Department Commerce and Labor.

HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

17 GRACE AVENUE, LAKEWOOD, OHIO, *April 18, 1907.*

For Hon. OSCAR STRAUS,
Secretary Commerce and Labor:

[Memorandum in re inclosed letter to Toronto Globe.]

The main and the leading idea in the minds of Canadian officialism at Ottawa with regard to this fur-seal dispute has been, and is, that that award of the Bering Sea tribunal was shaped to Canadian gain entirely by the superior wit and wisdom of the British agents as they made up and presented their case to that court in 1891–1893.

In order that Canadians generally, and this officialism at Ottawa in particular, may understand the great error of this opinion, and it is important and timely that it be so understood now, I have carefully prepared this letter to the Toronto Globe, because this newspaper is one of the leading Canadian organs, and it is very widely read in the Dominion.

Unless that wholly erroneous idea in the official mind at Ottawa above cited is shaken, that officialism will hold first to those idle and worthless rules of the Paris award; therefore, on account of the politics involved, we will get nothing done in the way of a new and better deal—we will be helpless to prevent that complete extermination of the fur-seal herd which is right ahead under existing law and regulations.

But by letting the Canadians know the truth in regard to that conduct of our case, they will quickly understand why and how those futile and useless rules and regulations were secured—that, in fact, they were not prepared and ordered by the court in deference to the Canadian argument—far from it. They will understand that this court really desired to save that fur-seal life from excessive killing at sea, and only erred in so doing through the ignorance and the venality of the agents of the United States, who failed to properly and intelligently submit all the facts, as they were then, well known to the tribunal; they failed singly because they prostituted the case of the States to private gain and monopolistic interest.

Therefore, if we tell the Canadians now the truth, as I have done in this letter, we at once disarm that political opposition at Ottawa; we do so by showing the real foundation for that Canadian success before the tribunal at Paris, August 16, 1893.

HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

APRIL 15, 1907.

[From the Toronto Globe, Apr. 13, 1907.]

HOW TO SAVE THE FUR SEAL.

Henry W. Elliott: Would it not be wise, humane, and merciful for the British and American Governments to unite at once in a plan of mutual concession in and joint control of this business of killing fur seals on the Pribylov Islands and on the high seas, so that all private interests shall be completely eliminated now and forever from that business? If the two Governments would so unite and give that small nucleus of fur seals now in existence a respite from slaughter on the islands of St. George and St. Paul for, say, 10 or 12 years, then the history of the great Russian decline and restoration of this Alaskan herd would repeat itself. In 1834 less than 60,000 adult fur seals were in existence in the Pribylov Islands; all killing was suspended on the islands, save a few thousand small male seals annually for natives' food up to 1844–1846; then it was gradually resumed and wisely conducted, so that by 1857–1860 an annual catch of 60,000 to 80,000 young males was safely taken.

FUR SEAL'S PROBABLE FATE; HOW IT MAY BE AVERTED—LEADING EXPERT ON SEAL LIFE STATES THE CASE—BOTH NATIONS ARE AT FAULT—FIRST STEP IN REMEDY TO WIPE OUT PRIVATE INTERESTS.

[Special correspondence of The Globe.]

LAKEWOOD, OHIO, *April 12.*

Henry Wood Elliott, the distinguished naturalist and the leading authority in America on seal life, proposes to make another effort to prevent the fur seal from going the way of the buffalo. He has always maintained that the continuance of the work of the "land butchers" of the United States on the Pribylov Islands and the "sea butchers" of Canada in the open sea would speedily annihilate seal life, and the facts are proving his conclusions true. In the hope that public opinion in Canada may be aroused before it is too late, Mr. Elliott makes the following statement as to the facts of the case:

On the 22d ultimo the Secretary of State, in behalf of the Government of the United States, put into the hands of the British ambassador a memorandum covering the several questions which are up for settlement between Ottawa and Washington. In The Globe of the 25th ultimo appears a detailed statement as to the nature of these questions and suggestions as to their probable fate in settlement.

In the settlement of one of those questions aforesaid—that one relating to the protection and preservation of the fur-seal herd of Alaska—I have a deep personal interest, and feel a solicitude, which is due to an extended official and unofficial association with it, beginning in 1872 down to the present hour. I am so deeply concerned because I know from that long study of and personal contact with this matter that unless an agreement is at once entered into between Canada and the United States which will set aside the existing rules and regulations and adopt in lieu thereof international regulations which will suspend all slaughter of the fur-seal herd of Alaska on the islands and in the sea for a term of years, the extermination of that life, root and branch, is right at hand.

I think that the Canadian people are entitled, in view of this serious condition of affairs on the seal islands of Alaska, to an authentic statement, which will show the real cause of failure on the part of the Bering Sea tribunal of arbitration to prescribe adequate rules and regulations for the protection and preservation of the fur-seal herd of Alaska. I think, too, that your readers will be surprised over the evidence which I produce in this statement following—surprised because it shows that the worst enemies the unhappy fur-seal herd had to face at Paris were not the Canadian hunters of Victoria, but were the licensed killers on the Pribylov Islands.

ISSUES OF ARBITRATION.

When public sentiment in the United States became duly aroused in 1887–88, it loudly agreed with that of Great Britain in so far as treating the open waters of the Bering Sea as a mare clausum went. Then President Harrison offered to submit the whole question to arbitration. This submission was made December 17, 1890, and accepted by Lord Salisbury in January, 1891. On February 29, 1892, a treaty at Washington was entered into providing for an amicable settlement of these questions raised over the fur seals, beginning in 1886. The issues raised and pressed by the United States Government were: (1) The claim of exclusive jurisdiction over the eastern part of Bering Sea; (2) the claim of a "property right" in the body of each and every fur seal born upon the Pribylov Islands; (3) in case of failure of the court to sustain the contention of the United States upon one or both of these propositions, (1) and (2), then the arbitrators were to agree upon a plan of rules and regulations which, when put into effect, would protect and preserve the fur-seal herd of Alaska from extermination.

The first of these issues was distinctly raised by Mr. Blaine on the ground that it was contrary to good morals to kill fur seals at sea. The second was distinctly the creation of President Harrison and his Secretary of the Navy, Tracy. The third and last was forced on Mr. Blaine by the best lawyers of the United States Senate, headed by Edmunds and Hoar, who denied these claims of jurisdiction and property right and who were outspoken and unanimous in expressing the belief that they were not valid and should not be pressed.

THE CLOVEN HOOF.

Meanwhile, prior to the spring of this treaty of February 29, 1892, certain preliminary steps had been taken by both Governments which led up to it. Unfortunately for the credit of the case of the United States, the cloven hoof was too much in evidence when they were taken. These steps ruined the good cause of my Government and prevented the Bering Sea tribunal from doing it justice. These erroneous and improper steps which wrought this failure to secure the right rules and regulations for the protection of the fur-seal herd of Alaska from cruel and excessive killing were:

(1) The amazing offer of Secretary Blaine to accept a "60-mile zone" of pelagic prohibition to fur-seal hunting around the Pribylov Islands as an ample measure of complete protection to the fur-seal herd thereon. This offer was officially made to Lord Salisbury December 17, 1890.

Why did Mr. Blaine make this offer when he had authentic evidence presented to him November 19, 1890, that the fur seals chiefly fed on fishing banks 100 to 125 miles west and away from the Pribylov Islands? He did so because the lessees of the seal islands assured him that it was entirely sufficient. Why should the lessees make such a statement to Mr. Blaine? Because on November 19, 1890, Mr. Blaine had declared that he would agree to urge upon Great Britain the plan of any modus vivendi whereby all killing of fur seals on the islands and in the waters of Bering Sea should be suspended for a term of years, while a joint commission of British and American experts should visit the islands and then agree upon a proper plan for resumption of said killing.

LESSEES CALLED THE TUNE.

If this modus vivendi was accepted it would put an end to the work of the lessees on the islands; therefore they would not entertain the plan for a moment; the offer of a "60-mile zone" would be sure of acceptance by Lord Salisbury and at once settle the matter without any interference with their work on the islands; so Elkins and his lessee associates urged Mr. Blaine to act, and he weakly yielded to them. He substituted their idle and improper suggestion for my modus vivendi, which he had promised both Secretary Windom and myself that he would use. Therefore we find this unfortunate "60-mile zone" duly incorporated by the tribunal into its regulations. Why, indeed, should that court at that time doubt the sense and integrity of Mr. Blaine?

(2) The refusal of Mr. Blaine to ask for this modus vivendi until forced to do so in the spring of 1891 by the pressure of public opinion in the United States and the prompt and ready willingness of Lord Salisbury and Sir Julian Pauncefote to accept it.

Why did Mr. Blaine do this? He did so because the lessees did not want it, and they assured him that Lord Salisbury would be sure to compromise on the "60-mile zone"; that the Canadian hunters would compel him to reject the modus vivendi and accept the "60-mile zone," which the lessees had substituted for it. That unwillingness of Mr. Blaine in this matter of the modus vivendi stamped with insincerity our official charge that the fur-seal herd was being cruelly and excessively killed at sea and that it was in danger of extermination at the hands of the Canadian hunters; it branded our case with subserviency to private interests.

A PERFUNCTORY EXAMINATION.

(3) By the appointment of two utterly inexperienced men as commissioners to jointly meet and investigate conditions in the Pribylov Islands with two British commissioners, these commissioners did not get into the islands until one week after the breeding season had ended (July 29, 1891); they remained there just nine days, and then returned direct to Washington; they prepared a report, which erroneously declared that all injury to the life of the fur-seal herd was due entirely to the result of pelagic sealing; they foolishly ignored the proof to the contrary which was in their hands; they did so because they were not fit for their task, and the lessees did not want any admission made as to the truth of their butchering and its effect; they did so easily enough, because no one of them had the slightest personal knowledge of the subject at issue or of the business connected with it; the land butchers of this fur-seal life were their authorities, and they are quoted by them as such.

Then as scientists they stultified themselves. They allowed themselves to be quoted by our counsel, Messrs. Phelps, Carter, and Coudert, as saying in the name of science that the fur seal was not a wild animal; that it comported itself in the Pribylov Islands precisely as cattle, swine or sheep do on our farms, and that we bear the same relation to it as master and owner.

This was simply foolish, and completely denied by natural science. It was and is so denied, because of all wild animals the fur seal is one of the very wildest; it can not be domesticated or even kept alive in captivity. No interference with its natural order of life as it breeds on the islands can be made by man without destroying it. All this biological fact I had ascertained and published in 1875–1881, and these publications were in their hands when they put up this false theory, but to base a property-right argument upon, the lawyers demanded this "scientific" authority from them.

The official joint session of this Anglo-American fur-seal commission after it had visited the Pribylov Islands during the summer of 1891 was held in Washington February 8 to March 4, 1892. It resulted, naturally enough, in complete disagreement on every question of * * * concerned, save in one general statement that the fur-seal herd of Alaska had been greatly diminished in numbers "owing to excessive killing at the hands of man"! After this absurd mouse ran out from that laboring joint commission mountain, then our commissioners set to work and prepared a report which suited the lessees, regardless of fact or sentiment. The British commissioners did the same; they fitted their work to suit the interests of the pelagic hunters. Indeed, they had no alternative, since the United States commissioners led the way.

BRITONS WERE THOROUGH.

But that session above mentioned of the commissioners declared the unpleasant truth that the British members had gained possession of much more detailed information of island killing and pelagic hunting than our men had. It developed the fact that Sir Geo. Baden-Powell and Dr. Dawson had spent three days investigating on the Pribylov Islands to every one so passed by Messrs. Merriam and Mendenhall; that these British agents had gone over and inspected the Russian seal islands while our men had not; that these British agents had made an extended tour of the entire extent of the northwest coast and had thus secured a great amount of direct testimony from pelagic fur seal hunters, while our men had been nowhere and had learned nothing except what the lessees had taught them during their nine days' wonder on the Pribylov Islands!

This was a great shock to our astute agent, John W. Foster. He at once hurried special agents in Government vessels up the northwest coast during the season of 1892 and inaugurated that silly work of getting affidavits from all of the Indian and white seal hunters who could be found and who would swear that they lost 90 out of every 100 fur seals which they killed at sea, and that these particular fur seals were all females, or nearly all so. Then, to prod the intelligence and stimulate the honesty of these hunters, they were paid from $2 to $5 each for these affidavits by Mr. Foster's agents. After several hundred of such worthless statements had been bagged in this manner, then the Canadians caught on to the game. They followed over the same ground and secured from the same men another series of affidavits denying that the Foster affidavits were correct transcripts of what they had said, and asserting under oath that they had been paid so much per man for what they did say by these Foster agents aforesaid.

THE TRICK EXPOSED.

Therefore, when Agent Foster strung out that long series of worthless, bogus testimony above cited in his opening of our case before the tribunal, the British counsel neatly countered on him in rebuttal and left him in the air, and at once placed our case in a shabby position as to sense and integrity before the court.

Bad, indeed, as this was, yet it was not the worst blow delivered by our own manager to our argument. Mr. Foster went still deeper into the mire. He had a large series of old Russian-American Co. letters translated, and they were so translated as to carry a fraudulent interpretation of their text, so as to assert on the part of the Russian Government a claim of exclusive jurisdiction over the entire area of Bering Sea. This fraud in the opening of our printed case was at once pointed out by the British agent. Foster then admitted the fraud, withdrew the letters, and apologized—a nice opening that for the case of the United States!

Therefore, the readers of The Globe can now understand what a depressing effect this opening of our case must have had on the court in so far as our claim of being all right and the Canadian argument being all wrong went, and this, too, at the very opening of the sessions of the tribunal, coupled with the attempt of our agent and counsel to suppress and deny the appearance of any report to Secretary Windom because it truthfully described the injurious work of the lessees in the islands. These exhibitions of ignorance and venality on the part of the managers of the case of the United States did not fail to harm our cause in the minds of the real arbitrators, Baron de Courcel, Viscount Venosta, and Baron Graw. They not only harmed it, they ruined it.

Our counsel made only a perfunctory argument in support of the first claim—that of jurisdiction over the open waters of Bering Sea. It was so plain an error on our part that it fell quickly. Those arguments in behalf of the property-right claim were elaborate and long drawn out, but the scientific and the legal grounds of good foundation were not ours, and the court made that clear long before the arguments ended. Then came the question of proper rules and regulations to govern the killing of fur seals on the high seas.

BUTCHERS IN CONTROL.

At this stage of the proceedings, if our counsel and "experts" had been clear and free from the selfish interests of the lessees of the seal islands, and not exhibiting at every opportunity a feverish anxiety to serve those selfish interests, the court would have given their demands more respect; but the greed and the animus of those land butchers behind our agents and plainly directing them was too much. It was everlastingly present, and our "expert" scientists who prepared the base for these arguments were flayed alive by the Canadian naturalists. Therefore, the British agent and counsel took every advantage of this unfortunate and disgraceful entanglement of the case of the United States. They rubbed it in, over and over again, as Foster, Phelps, and Carter progressed in labored defense and denial of every abuse charged and proven upon the lessees by honest, capable, and sworn agents of their own Government![1]

* * * * * * *

When these rules were put into effect in 1894, and my modus vivendi superseded by them, there were, in round numbers, 1,000,000 fur seals, old and young, in existence on the breeding and hauling grounds of the Pribylov Islands during the summer of 1903. In 1874 there were 4,700,000. I deem this figure the maximum limit of increase which it can atttain in a state of nature.

To-day, as the season of 1907 opens, it is safe to say that there is not to exceed 100,000 fur seals which belong to the Alaskan herd in existence. The lessees insist that it is useless for the preservation of this pitiful remnant that they be asked to spare the male life on the islands, since if so spared by them these seals will only be killed at sea by the pelagic hunters, and the result of extermination will surely ensue—only be the longer deferred if they are not permitted to kill everything that the law permits them to take on the hauling grounds.

The pelagic hunters retort that they will not agree to any suppression of their work, since it will only increase the gains of a private monopoly. Why should they?

TOTAL EXTINCTION IN SIGHT.

Facing these combined forces of destruction on land and in the sea, as the last of the fur-seal heard of Alaska does to-day, how much longer before its total extinction will take place? Does any reader of The Globe believe it will be much longer?

In view of these facts, would it not be wise, humane, and merciful for the British and American Governments to unite at once in a plan of mutual concession in and joint control of this business of killing fur seals on the Pribylov Islands and on the high seas, so that all private interests shall be completely eliminated now and forever from that business?

If the two Governments would so unite and give that small nucleus of fur-seal life now in existence a respite from slaughter on the islands of St. George and St. Paul for, say, 10 or 12 years, then the history of the great Russian decline and restoration of this Alaskan herd would repeat itself. In 1834 less than 60,000 adult fur seals were in existence in the Pribylov Islands. All killing was suspended in the islands save a few thousand small male seals annually for natives' food up to 1844–1846. Then it was gradually resumed and wisely conducted, so that by 1857–1860 an annual catch of 60,000 to 80,000 young males was safely taken up to the date of the cession of Alaska—taken without any impairment of the annual birth rate on the breeding grounds.

The award of the Bering Sea tribunal and its denial of the claims of the United States Government has made it utterly impossible to preserve the fur-seal herd of Alaska from complete extermination unless all private interests concerned in the killing of that life on the land and in the sea are suppressed and eliminated by the joint action of the British and American Governments. Then, why, in the name of sense and mercy, should these Governments fail to so join and act?

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[1] Clipping mutilated; two or more paragraphs missing.

If they do so unite, then this small nucleus of the fur-seal herd of Alaska, as it barely exists in 1907, can and will by natural forces a few years hence be restored to its immense aggregation of 1874, and yield annually to both Governments a handsome revenue into the indefinite future. It will then exist, as it should exist, as a fit object of international attention and for the good of all mankind.

PART IV. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO SUPPLIES AND ACCOUNTS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 31, 1907.

Hon. L. O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: In the report of Hon. E. W. Sims, Solicitor of the Department of Commerce and Labor, on the Alaskan seal islands, it was recommended that certain arms, ammunition, and appliances were necessary for official use on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and should be furnished. I have the honor to concur in said recommendation and to state that the following amounts of such articles are required on the several islands, to wit:

St. Paul Island:
- 25 Krag-Jorgensen rifles, caliber .30 (with bayonets, belts, slings, oilers, etc.).
- 3,000 ball cartridges, caliber .30, for above rifles.
- 3 small fieldpieces, maximum range, 3 miles.
- Assorted ammunition for above fieldpieces (including blank cartridges, reloading tools, and materials for reloading).
- 2 rapid-fire guns and ammunition therefor.
- 1 gasoline launch.
- 2 draft horses and light wagon.
- 6 revolvers, caliber .38, Navy pattern.

St. George Island:
- 18 Krag-Jorgensen rifles, caliber .30 (with bayonets, belts, slings, oilers, etc.).
- 2,500 ball cartridges, caliber .30, for above rifles.
- 2 small fieldpieces, maximum range, 3 miles.
- Assorted ammunition for above pieces (including blank cartridges, reloading tools, and materials for reloading).
- 1 rapid-fire gun and ammunition therefor.
- 6 revolvers, caliber .38, Navy pattern.

The necessity for the articles above referred to is stated in pages 25–26 of the printed report of Mr. Sims, a copy of which is herewith transmitted.

Respectfully,
W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Alaskan Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 31, 1907.

Hon. L. O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you that the following articles are required on each of the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska, during the coming season, for official use:

1 large heating stove, "Peninsular Oak," 3½ feet high.
2 dustpans and brushes.
2 pairs heavy portières.
2 white Marseilles quilts.
2 pairs white blankets.
2 light comforts.
2 door mats, jute, 3 by 2.
6 rugs, 3 by 6, Wilton, for runners.
2 coal hods.
1 pair shovel and tongs.
2 dozen memorandum blocks, large.
2 dozen memorandum blocks, small.
2 dozen memorandum blocks, medium.
1 pint carmine ink.
1 quart writing fluid.
2 bottles ink for fountain pens.
1 large log or record book.
2 blank books, about 5 quires each.
1 gross pens, assorted.
1 dozen penholders.
2 dozen medium black lead pencils.
5,000 order blanks for natives' supplies, bound.
6 boxes carbon paper.
3 dozen indelible pencils.

In case the department should require the photographing of the rookeries, the following materials will be necessary:

10 dozen plates, 8 by 10, for each island.
Suitable chemicals for printing and developing.
10 rolls (12 exposures each), 5 by 4, films for No. 4 Cartridge Kodak.
1 developing tank, for 5 by 4 films.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Alaskan Seal Fisheries.

Dept. Req. No. 7339.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

For St. Paul:
12 rolls films, 5 by 4, 12 exposures each.
10 dozen plates, 8 by 10, Cramer Crown.
12 slides for Carlton plate holders.
2 gross 4 by 5 carbon velox.
2 gross 8 by 10 carbon velox.
18 packages style E machine developing powders.
2 ounces pyrogallic acid.
2 pounds sulphite of soda, dry.
1 pound carbonate of soda, dry.
30 pounds hyposulphite of soda.
2 ounces metol.
2 ounces hydrochinon.
1 developing tank, suitable for 5 by 4 films.
6 plates ground glass, 8 by 10.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Shipping request 1101.

Dept. Req. No. 7338.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved. F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

FOR ST. GEORGE.

Item No.	Quantity. Desired.	Quantity. Issued.	Articles.
.....	1	.....	Large heating stove, "Peninsular Oak," 3½ feet high.
M. 1426 / M. 1420 y	2	.....	Dustpans and brushes.
O. M.	2	.....	Pairs heavy portières, 1002.
O. M.	2	.....	White Marseilles quilts, 1001.
O. M.	2	1	Light comforts, 1001.
M. 565	2	.....	Door mats, jute, 3 by 2.
O. M.	6	3	Rugs, Wilton, 3 by 6, for runners, 1000.
.....	2	.....	Coal hods.
.....	1	.....	Pair shovel and tongs.
M. 550 az	3	.....	Rugs, Brussels border (11½ yards).
O. M.	1	.....	Blanket.
O. M.	11½ yds.	.....	Binding, Brussels border.
O. M.	2	.....	Nickel plated lamps, with holders and shades.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Request 1101.

Dept. Req. No. 7336.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved. F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

FOR ST. PAUL.

Item No.	Quantity. Desired.	Quantity. Issued.	Articles.
207	1 pint.....	.....	Carmine ink.
196y	1 quart.....	.....	Writing fluid.
290b	1 gross.....	.....	Pens, Miller Bros., carbon, No. 4.
280b	.....do	.....	Pens, Esterbrooks, No. 048.
288a	.....do	.....	Gillotts pens, No. 303.
275	1 dozen.....	.....	Penholders, cork tips.
254	2 dozen.....	.....	Pencils, Mongol hexagonal, No. 2.
260a	3 dozen.....	.....	Pencils, indelible copying, A. W. Faber's, No. 5896.
42	6 boxes.....	.....	Carbon paper, 8 by 10½.
16	1 ream.....	.....	Paper, typewriter, 8 by 10½.
13	.....do	.....	Do.
87a	1 gross.....	.....	Thumb tacks, ½-inch.
86	1 (number)....	.....	Ruling pen, 5-inch.
138m	3 pieces.....	.....	Sponge for cups.
216b	½ pound.....	.....	Pins, No. 3.
222a	4.....	.....	Clips, cylindrical, medium.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Request 1101.

Dept. Req. No. 7335.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

For St. George:

10 dozen plates, 8 by 10, Cramer Crown.
12 slides for Carlton plate holders.
2 gross 8 by 10 carbon velox.
2 ounces pyrogallic acid.
2 pounds sulphite of soda, dry.
1 pound carbonate of soda, dry.
20 pounds hyposulphite of soda.
2 ounces metol.
2 ounces hydrochinon.
6 plates ground glass, 8 by 10.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Request 1101.

Dept. Req. No. 7368.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

FOR ST. PAUL.

Item No.	Quantity.		Articles.
	Desired.	Issued.	
328c	1 dozen		Erasers, typewriter, Comet.
391a	2 (number)		Erasers, steel, wood handle, Miller Bros.
361dy	1 (number)		Stamp pad, Fulton, No. 3.
365a	1 bottle		Ink, stamp pad, black, 4-ounce.
356	1 (number)		U. S. dater.
412	1 ball		Twine, jute, 5-ply, ½-pound balls.
410c	do		Twine, hemp, No. 60, 1-pound balls.
395	1 pair		Shears, 8-inch.
395b	do		Shears, 12-inch.
.....	1 (number)		Packing box, special size.
A	2 (number)		Do.
B	1 (number)		Do.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Request 1101.

Dept. Req. No. 7365.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To he CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

FOR ST. GEORGE.

Item No.	Quantity.		Articles.
	Desired.	Issued.	
220	3 boxes		Gem clips.
415	3 (number)		Typewriter ribbons, 1⅜-inch blue copying, Paragon.
431a	1 (number)		Brush for typewriter, Fitch.
432	do		Numbering machine, Bates, 4-wheel, No. 73807.
451ey	1,000 (number)		Tags, manila, 6-P.
452	1 spool		Red tape.
393	1 (number)		Mail opener.
233	do		Punch, eyelet Triumph.
233a	1 box		Eyelets, B.
233b	do		Eyelets, J. N.
233c	do		Eyelets, C. Z.
238	1 jar		Paste, 4-ounce.
m94	1 pint		Glue, Le Page's (carpenter).
321d	1 gross		Rubber bands, No. 19.
322	do		Rubber bands, No. 30.
322b	do		Rubber bands, No. 32.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Request 1101.

Dept. Req. No. 7364.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

FOR ST. GEORGE.

Item No.	Quantity.		Articles.
	Desired.	Issued.	
207	1 pint		Carmine ink.
196y	1 quart		Writing fluid.
290b	1 gross		Pens, Miller Bros., carbon No. 4.
280b	do		Pens, Esterbrooks, No. 048.
288a	do		Gillotts pens, No. 303.
275	1 dozen		Penholders, cork tips.
254	2 dozen		Pencils, Mongol hexagonal, No. 2.
260a	3 dozen		Pencils, indelible copying, A. W. Faber's, No. 5896.
42	6 boxes		Carbon paper, 8 by 10½.
16	1 ream		Paper, typewriter, 8 by 10½.
13	do		Do.
87a	1 gross		Thumb tacks, ½-inch.
86	1 (number)		Ruling pen, 5-inch.
m138	3 pieces		Sponge for cups.
216b	½ pound		Pins, No. 3.
222a	4 (number)		Clips, cylindrical, medium.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Request 1101.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved.

———— ————, *Chief Clerk.*

Quantity.		Articles.
Desired.	Issued.	
25	25	Krag-Jorgensen rifles, caliber .30.
25	.....	Belts, slings, and oilers.
3,000	.....	Ball cartridges for Krag-Jorgensen, caliber .30.
3	.....	Field pieces, maximum range of 3 miles.
.....	.....	2 Manuals of Instruction, 1 for each.
.....	.....	Assorted ammunition for fieldpieces (including blank cartridges).
.....	.....	Reloading tools, and materials for reloading ammunition for fieldpieces.
.....	.....	2 machine guns and ammunition therefor.
.....	.....	6 revolvers, caliber .38, Navy pattern, with 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

NOTE.—The above articles are for use on St. Paul Island.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
February 7, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved.

———— ————, *Chief Clerk.*

For St. George:
18 Krag-Jorgensen rifles, caliber .30.
18 belts, slings, oilers.
2,000 ball cartridges, Krag-Jorgensen, caliber .30.
2 fieldpieces, maximum range of 3 miles.
Assorted ammunition for fieldpieces, including blank cartridges.
Reloading tools, and materials for reloading ammunition for fieldpieces.
1 rapid-fire gun and ammunition therefor.
6 revolvers, caliber .38, Navy pattern, and ammunition therefor.

Secretary Murray says tell Mr. Fowler that he will agree to this.

E. W. C.

FEBRUARY 13, 1907.

Dept. Req. No. 7397.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF SEAL FISHERIES, ALASKA,
February, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

For St. Paul Island:
- 12 miles galvanized wire, 24 reels.
- 600 glass insulators, with wooden brackets.
- 400 feet insulated copper wire, 8 pounds.
- 4 sets instruments.
- 1 come-along.

For St. George Island:
- 6 miles galvanized wire, 12 reels.
- 300 glass insulators, with wooden brackets.
- 200 feet of insulated copper wire, 4 pounds.
- 3 sets telephone receivers and transmitters.
- 1 come-along.

Estimated cost of foregoing, $261.82.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Request 1101.

Telephones:
- 7 wall telephones, magneto ringing; bridging. To have at least 4 bar magnetos, 1,200 ohm ringers, bipolar receivers, solid back transmitters, lighting arresters, and guranteed to ring through 12 miles of No. 12 iron wire with 4 instruments in multiple. No battery box required.
- 21 Leclanche cells.
- 20 pounds sal ammoniac.
- 3 dozen pencil zincs.
- 2 pounds tape.
- 10 pounds wire solder.
- 9 pony insulators.
- 12-inch painted oak brackets.
- 50 pounds 20-penny wire nails.
- 20 pounds 10-penny wire nails.
- 150 No. 5½ knobs.
- 5 pounds No. 18 annunciator wire.
- 1 gross No. 8 2½-inch flat-head screws.
- Soldering paste.

Dept. Req. No. 7412.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF ALASKAN FUR-SEAL FISHERIES,
February 23, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.		Articles.
	Desired.	Issued.	
M446	3 dozen		Zincs, pencil (21 to St. Paul, 15 to St. George).
M409	2 pounds		Tape, adhesive, Grimshaw (1 to St. Paul, 1 to St. George).
M254	21		Batteries, Leclanche (12 to St. Paul, 9 to St. George).
M344	150		Knobs, porcelain, No. 5½ (85 to St. Paul, 65 to St. George).
M391	½ pound		Soldering paste (¼ to St. Paul, ¼ to St. George).
M422	4 pounds, 10 ounces.		Wire, annunciator, No. 18 (2 pounds 2 ounces to St. George, 2 pounds 8 ounces to St. Paul).
M1044	10 pounds		Solder, wire (5¾ to St. Paul, 4¼ to St. George).
M381	20 pounds		Sal ammoniac (11 to St. Paul, 9 to St. George).
O M.	4 pairs		Pliers, No. 7, side-cutting (2 to St. Paul, 2 to St. George).

To St. Paul:

Six batteries, Edison, type V, porcelain cell, 150 ampere-hours.
Six extra charges, complete, for type V cell.
Six gaskets, rubber, for Edison-Lalande batteries.

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent in Charge.*

Request 1101.

Dept. Req. No. 7459.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
ALASKAN FUR-SEAL FISHERIES,
March 6, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

Approved.

W. R. B., *Acting Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.		Articles.
	Desired.	Issued.	
M 149		2	Tumblers.

Received the above February 9, 1907.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Dept. Req. No. 7614.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SEAL FISHERIES,
March 29, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge.

Approved.

W. R. B., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.		Articles.	Cost.
	Desired.	Issued.		
O. M.		4 gross	Velox, 8 by 10, photographic, at $9	$36.00
		20 yards	Sheeting, for mounting photos, at 35 cents	7.00
			Developing plates (48)	.50

Received the above March 14, 1907.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

APRIL 15, 1907.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in the letter dated the 11th ultimo, from the North American Commercial Co., the collector of customs at San Francisco and the deputy collector of customs at Unalaska have been requested to permit the company named to ship from either of said ports to the Pribilof Islands during the current fiscal year liquors for medicinal purposes only, and arms and ammunition, as follows:

St. Paul Island (population—native, 167; white, 9; total, 176).

4 barrels beer.
2 cases whisky.
6 kegs whisky (30 gallons).
1 keg brandy (5 gallons).
2 kegs rum (5 gallons each).
1 case gin.
4 cases claret.
2 cases still wine.
2 kegs port wine (5 gallons each).
2 kegs sherry wine (5 gallons each).
20 gallons alcohol.
1 case champagne.
200 pounds powder.
5 M cartridges, .22 caliber.

St. George Island (population—native, 94; white, 7; total, 101).

3 barrels beer.
2 kegs whisky (5 gallons each).
1 case whisky.
2 kegs brandy (5 gallons each).
3 cases still wine.
1 case gin.
1 keg port wine (5 gallons).
1 keg sherry wine (5 gallons).
5 gallons alcohol.
100 pounds powder.
200 cartridges, .38 caliber.

In respect to the liquors above mentioned, the company has been informed that the arbitrary designation of barrels, cases, kegs, etc., may be disregarded, and the liquors shipped in packages different from those mentioned, provided the whole amount of each kind of liquor shipped does not exceed the amount specified in the foregoing list.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

JULY 9, 1907.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries,
Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in the letter dated the 1st instant, from the North American Commercial Co., the collector of customs at San Francisco and the deputy collector of customs at Unalaska have been requested to permit the company named to ship from either of said ports to the Pribilof Islands during the current fiscal year the following-named ammunition:

St. Paul Island: 250 pounds powder; 250 cartridges, .44 caliber; 10,000 cartridges, .22, long; 10,000 cartridges, .22, short; 500 cartridges, .25–.20.

St. George Island: 1,000 cartridges, .44 caliber; 2,000 cartridges, .22 caliber.

You will please be governed accordingly.

Yours, very respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

JULY 17, 1907.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEAR SIR: I inclose herewith list of ordnance and ordnance stores furnished to this department by the Ordnance Department, United States Army, for use in the protection of the Pribilof Islands and Government property thereon. These arms and ammunition are to be transported to the islands by the steamer *Homer* of the North American Commercial Co.

The arms and ammunition described in the accompanying lists must be taken up on your property returns and report made annually to this office, in order that this office may in turn make its semiannual returns of ordnance and ordnance stores to the Ordnance Department, United States Army.

With kindest personal regards to yourself and the other fur-seal agents, I remain,

Very truly, yours,

F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
ALASKAN FUR SEAL FISHERIES,
September 16, 1907.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this ———.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

Approved.

F. H. B., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity.	Articles.
391a	2.....	Steel erasers.
1290 O.M.	1.....	Desk brush (counter brush).
M1252	1.....	Whisk broom.
M58y	2.....	Waste baskets, wire.
400	4.....	Desk bookracks.
M75	2.....	Cuspidors, iron.
46	24 sheets....	Blotters, large sheets, granite.
16	1.....	Ream, typewriter, second sheets, 8 x 10½.
13	1.....	Ream, typewriter, continuation sheets, 8 x 10½
220c	½ doz.....	Boxes, Gem clips.
322	1 gross.....	Rubber bands, No. 30.
321ba	.....do.....	Rubber bands, No. 19.
322b	.....do.....	Rubber bands, No. 32.
290b	.....do.....	Steel pens, Miller Bros., carbon stub, 4.
396ay	11.....	Paper weights, No. 60.
441	2.....	Blotter holders.
46ay	4 doz.....	Blotters for blotter holders.
217	2.....	Pincushions.
216c	½ lb.....	Pins, medium, No. 4.
238	2.....	Library paste, 4-ounce.
396	1.....	Paper weight, No. 200 W.
156a	2.....	Inkstands, 2½" square.
161a	2.....	Sponge cups, reservoir.
395	2.....	Shears, 8".
208	2.....	Bottles, red ink, 4-ounce.
196	1.....	Quart writing fluid, Carter's.
275a	½ doz.....	Penholders, cork tips.
253	2 doz.....	Pencils, black—Mongol, No. 2; Sequoia, medium
258ay	½ doz.....	Pencils, red, Faber's.
258	.....do.....	Pencils, blue.
379b	2.....	Rulers, boxwood, 18-inch.
393	2.....	Letter openers, steel.
398	4.....	Bill files.
397a	2.....	Pin racks, glass base.
328c	½ doz.....	Ink erasers, rubber, Comet.
325y	0 pieces.....	Pencil erasers, rubber, Premier, No. 20.

Received the above September 18, 1907.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Per F. C. HALL.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT: THE FACTS IN THIS MATTER OF THAT COLLAPSE OF THE LAND KILLING ON THE PRIBYLOV ISLANDS, SEASON OF 1907.

The Secretary of Commerce and Labor says on page 53 of his last annual report to the President dated December 1, 1907:

During the period from May 12 to June 29, 1907, there were driven on St. Paul Island 16,089 individual seals, of which 10,966, or 68 per cent, were killed. On St. George, from June 7 to July 29, 4,636 animals were driven, and 2,072, or 44 per cent, were killed.

When the Secretary says that "16,089 individual seals" were driven on the St. Paul Island last summer, out of which only "10,966 were killed," thus leaving 5,123 as spared, he makes an utterly unfounded assertion, and for which he has no valid warrant. It seems fairly incredible that his agents on the islands are ignorant of the following points, which deny in toto this official statement of the Secretary, as above quoted:

When the killable seals on the islands are driven up from the several hauling grounds, say, from Tolstoi, for instance, to the killing grounds, they are looked over before they are clubbed by the natives; if a seal is not large enough, or has a torn skin, etc., that seal is not killed; it is turned away; it goes back soon thereafter to the water; it returns speedily to that place from whence it was driven (Tolstoi), and hauls out there again, along with the others like itself and new arrivals, which have been hauling there ever since this drive was made early in the morning or during the day before; but when that seal was spared, as above described, it was turned off from the killing grounds with no mark of any sort placed upon it for identification by the natives. It was, however, counted at the time as one of those "individual seals" thus released and spared during that day's work. There may have been 100, or 200, or 300 such seals thus released on this day, and so recorded as being below or above the standard size ordered taken.

After the lapse of three or four days, another, or the second drive of this season, is made from Tolstoi; in its progress this rejected seal above described, and all the others like it, are hustled up with the new arrivals, and it is again driven over to the killing grounds; again it is turned away for the second time; again it returns to Tolstoi; but it has been counted again as another "individual seal," when it is not so, and it will be recounted again and again in this manner just as often as it shall be redriven from Tolstoi during the entire season.

Thus, a single released or spared seal during the season is actually counted into this sum total of spared seals, which the Secretary says were spared, anywhere from at least two, and at the most, 10 or 12 times!

In this improper citation of 5,123 seals as driven and then spared during the season of 1907 on the Pribylov Islands, it is proper to say that not to exceed 1,500 small, "runty" seals were actually saved from the club on St. Paul, and some 200 to 300 such seals left alive on St. George!

Of necessity, in the light [of conditions] as above shed, it is impossible for anyone to give an accurate sum total of the "individual seals" thus driven and then spared; but, nevertheless, a competent investigator, in reading the lines of this report of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, will quickly read between them correctly. By so doing, he understands at once that really desperate status of our fur-seal herd to-day, and of which this high official report does not even hint.

HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

17 GRACE AVENUE, LAKEWOOD, OHIO, *January 17, 1907.*

Secretary's report contains no statement such as Elliott imputes.

LEMBKEY.

1908.

Part I. Instructions to Agents and Agents' Reports.

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Office of the Assistant Secretary,
Washington, March 4, 1908.

The honorable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose herewith the original of a letter from the North American Commercial Co., the lessee of the sealing right on the Pribilof Islands, stating that by reason of their failure to renew the charter of the vessel they have been sending to the islands for some years past, they will have no passenger accommodations for the Government agents on the vessel which they will charter for the coming season of 1908.

In view of the probability that Assistant Agent E. W. Clark, who is there already, will not be well enough to stay on the islands during two successive winters, it will be necessary for me to go to the islands this spring prepared to stay for a year, in which case it will be necessary also to take my wife with me. Agent Chichester also will go to the islands to remain a year.

Because of the inability of the lessee to take passengers on its vessel, there is no other method for the agents to reach the islands than on one of the Government vessels engaging in the annual patrol about the islands. I have therefore the honor to request that permission be requested of the Secretary of the Treasury for accommodations from Seattle or San Francisco to the islands on a revenue cutter for myself and wife and Agent Chichester.

Respectfully,

W. I. Lembkey,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

April 1, 1908.

Mr. W. I. Lembkey,
Agent in Charge of Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Sir: Section 1. Order to Proceed to Islands.—You are directed to proceed to the seal islands in time to arrive there before the beginning of the sealing season of 1908, there to assume charge of the Government's interests on the islands. Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester will be instructed to accompany you to the islands and will report to you for instructions.

Sec. 2. Assignment of Assistants.—You will make such assignment of the assistant agents for the season's work as in your judgment will best subserve the interests of the service and the welfare of the native inhabitants, and will notify the department of your action in this regard.

SEC. 3. AGENTS TO REPORT TO WASHINGTON.—At the close of the sealing season, or as soon thereafter as feasible, Assistant Agents James Judge and E. W. Clark will return to Washington and report for duty at the department. Assistant Agent Chichester, as well as yourself, will remain on the islands during the coming winter.

SEC. 4. COPIES OF CONTRACT INCLOSED.—Inclosed herewith are copies of the contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co., and it will be your duty and that of your assistants to see that its provisions are enforced and the rights of the Government and those of the lessee duly protected.

SEC. 5. DECISION IN EVENT OF DIFFERENCE.—Should a difference of opinion arise at any time between yourself and the representatives of the company in respect to a matter of administration on the islands, your decision must govern, but in all cases you should request the superintendent of the company to furnish a written statement of his views on the question involved. This statement should be transmitted to the department with an expression of your own views at the earliest practicable moment.

SEC. 6. QUOTA.—If the condition of the herd will permit, the lessee may be allowed to take during the season of 1908 as many as 13,000 male seals of the proper age on the island of St. Paul, and as many as 2,000 on the island of St. George, but not more than the number specified in either case: Provided, however, That in case the number of male seals hauling on St. George Island is so greatly in excess of the number usually hauling there as to convince the Government agent in charge on St. George that there has been a material contemporaneous diminution in the number of male seals hauling on St. Paul Island, said agent in charge may, in his discretion, authorize the taking of a total of not to exceed 3,000 seals on St. George Island. This taking is, of course, to be subject to all the other requirements and limitations of these regulations. The numbers to which the quotas of the two islands are thus limited shall be inclusive of any skins accepted by the company from food drives made prior to the present sealing season. No seals shall be taken this season that have reached the age of 4 years (i. e., seals that have attained their fifth summer), nor shall any seals be taken that are under 2 years of age.

SEC. 7. RESERVATION OF YOUNG MALES.—In order to remove all doubt as to the reservation of a sufficient number of male seals for the perpetuation of the herd, you are instructed to release from among the best seals appearing in the first drives of the season not less than 1,000 3-year-old males and not less than 1,000 2-year-old males. Of the 3-year-olds and 2-year-olds to be reserved, 800 of each shall be released on the island of St. Paul and 200 of each on the island of St. George. The seals thus released are to be marked in such a manner as will make them readily recognizable throughout the season, and under no circumstances are they to be taken by the lessee.

SEC. 8. SIZES OF KILLABLE SEALS.—No seals shall be killed having skins weighing less than 5 pounds nor more than $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Skins weighing less than 5 pounds or more than $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds shall not be shipped from the islands, but shall be held there subject to such instructions as may be furnished you hereafter by the department.

SEC. 9. KILLING SEASON.—The killing season should begin as soon after the 1st of June as the rookeries are in condition for driving.

Seals shall not be killed by the lessee later than July 31. The killing of pups for food for the natives or for any other purpose is not to be permitted.

SEC. 10. SEALS FOR FOOD.—The number of seals to be killed by the natives for food for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1908, shall not exceed 1,700 on the island of St. Paul and 500 on the island of St. George, subject to the same limitations and restrictions as apply to the killing of seals by the company for its quota. Care should be taken that no branded seals be killed in the drives for food.

SEC. 11. DRIVING.—The representatives of the company on the islands should be required to give notice on the day preceding that on which they desire to make a drive of seals, stating the name of the rookery selected. The time, place, and manner of conducting all drives shall be subject to your approval. A representative of the Government should be present on the killing ground in each instance to superintend the killing. If at any time the methods employed in driving or killing appear in your judgment to be faulty or detrimental to the seal herd you should see that such methods are immediately corrected, indicating to the representative of the company what changes are to be made.

SEC. 12. KILLING GROUNDS.—As heretofore, you should establish on each of the islands killing grounds that can be reached by the shortest possible drive: Provided, however, That such killing grounds must be at places sufficiently distant from the rookeries to prevent annoyance from the decaying carcasses.

SEC. 13. ACCEPTANCE OF SKINS.—In an opinion dated March 8, 1902, it was held by the Solicitor of the Treasury that the lessee has no right to reject any of the skins taken from the seals which it has selected for killing. You will therefore see that all such skins, regardless of condition, are accepted.

SEC. 14. COUNTING SKINS.—All the sealskins should be carefully counted into the salt houses in the presence of the department agent and of the representative of the company, and a receipt, in duplicate, in the following form should be prepared and signed by said agent and by the representative of the company:

ST. ——— ISLAND,
———, *190—*.

We certify that there have been placed in salt in the salt house in our presence ——— sealskins.

———,
Agent, United States Department of Commerce and Labor.

———,
Agent, North American Commercial Co.

SEC. 15. RECEIPTS FOR SEALSKINS SALTED.—The original of the above receipt should be retained by the department agent and the duplicate be given to the representative of the North American Commercial Co. At the close of the season, when the sealskins are again counted and shipped on board the company's steamer, the usual annual receipts should be signed by the captain of the steamer and the representative of the department.

SEC. 16. TRADING IN SKINS.—The North American Commercial Co. has the exclusive privilege under its contract of taking sealskins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and you should see that

the company is protected in this right. Care should be taken to prevent the disposal of skins by the natives to any other company or to any person. All trading in sealskins by the natives is strictly prohibited, nor shall the natives be permitted to do any trading in fox skins.

SEC. 17. MEASURES TO PREVENT SHIPMENT OF SKINS BY NATIVES.—To avoid the possibility of sealskins or fox skins being surreptitiously shipped from the islands, you are directed to continue the practice of examining all goods to be shipped by the natives, including baggage and personal effects, and where barrels, casks, boxes, or other receptacles are used, they should be closed under your supervision, after an examination of their contents, before being placed in the warehouse. Any skins found concealed in packages to be shipped by the natives should be seized and held, subject to instructions from the department.

SEC. 18. CENSUS OF SEAL HERD.—You are expected to make a thorough examination into the condition of the seal herd during the coming season, and to make a careful count of the number of breeding seals, male and female, on the islands, and also a computation as accurate as possible, of the number of seals not breeding, including idle bulls, half bulls, bachelors, and virgin females. A careful enumeration should also be made of the pups found dead at the close of the season, and such information as can be had regarding the cause of death reported; provided, however, that in case the presence of pelagic schooners near the islands at any time during the summer should make it unwise to so disturb the rookeries by counting as to drive off the breeding seals into the water, yourself, and the assistant agent in charge on St. George should use your discretion as to what further counts should be made, or whether counting should be discontinued altogether for the remainder of the season.

SEC. 19. SEALSKINS TO BE WEIGHED.—You are instructed to have the skins of the seals taken by the lessee during the coming season carefully weighed, and to keep a record of the weights for the information of the department. You should also weigh the skins of seals that are killed to supply food for the natives, and record the weights. The natives may be required to assist as far as practicable in the work of weighing.

SEC. 20. CARE OF THE NATIVES.—The care and welfare of the natives should receive your close attention, and you are directed to see that the lessee performs all of the obligations of its contract toward such natives. You should ascertain the prices charged at the company's stores, compare them with the prices at San Francisco, and report any instances where the natives are compelled to pay unfair prices. You should also inspect the articles supplied as to quality and quantity, and if they are in any manner deficient you should report the fact to the department.

SEC. 21. COMPENSATION TO NATIVES FOR TAKING SKINS.—In view of the increase of the prices charged the natives on the seal islands for necessaries of life by the lessee, the latter has been informed that the compensation to be paid by the company for killing, salting, curing, bundling, and loading the sealskins on the company's steamers will be 75 cents for each skin, instead of 50 cents a skin as heretofore. The increase of 25 cents per skin is designed to meet the increased cost of necessaries of life on the islands. It is the purpose of the

department to require that the prices of labor in the work of sealing by the natives shall be adjusted to meet as far as may be the increased cost of articles required for their subsistence. You are therefore directed to notify the department of any further increase in the prices of goods sold by the company to the natives. The money thus earned is to constitute a community fund for distribution among the natives according to their respective classes. At the close of the sealing season, after a conference with the native chiefs, you will make such division of the fund among the natives according to their classification as is deemed fair and just and submit a report of such division, showing the amount apportioned to each native participating in the fund. This report should be accompanied with an indorsement of approval from the native chiefs and a certificate from the company's agent that such funds have been credited to such natives on the books of the company.

SEC. 22. RETURNS TO NATIVES UNDER FOX CONTRACT.—The contract granting the North American Commercial Co. the right to propagate on the islands of St. Paul and St. George the fur-bearing animal known as the blue fox will expire on April 1 instant. The question of renewing said contract for the ensuing fiscal year is now under consideration by the department. If a new contract is concluded, you will be advised in a later communication regarding its terms. Should you fail to receive notice of the execution of such a contract, you are directed to see that no fox skins are taken by the company.

In the absence of a contract with the company you will exercise your judgment as regards permitting any fox skins to be taken by the natives. If you are convinced that it will be advisable to allow the killing of a certain quota of foxes, you may permit a reasonable quota to be taken under the direction of the Government agents, the skins to be delivered into your custody and to be retained by you awaiting instructions from the department as to the manner of their disposal. If skins are thus taken, the question of applying the proceeds in whole or in part to the support of the natives will be given careful consideration.

SEC. 23. PAYMENT OF NATIVES' EARNINGS.—The amounts that are earned from the company by the natives for labor other than sealing and foxing are to be paid to them in cash, and you will instruct the company's representatives accordingly. The funds earned from sealing and foxing, however, are to be disbursed on orders as heretofore. The payment to the natives of money from the appropriation for their maintenance, upon the orders of the Government agent, is strictly prohibited. Articles that do not properly come within the term "necessaries" should not be exposed for sale in the company's stores nor sold to the natives for the money they earn by labor.

SEC. 24. SUPPORT OF NATIVES.—Congress has been requested to appropriate the sum of $19,500 "to enable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to furnish food, fuel, and clothing, and other necessaries of life to the native inhabitants on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska," during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909. Should this appropriation be made the greatest care and economy should be exercised in its expenditure. Articles of strict necessity only should be issued. No expensive dress goods, boots, or other articles are to be provided. Each of the natives should be restricted to one pair of

dress shoes per year, and each of the women to one good dress. Ginghams, calicoes, muslins, and similar inexpensive dress goods may be issued in reasonable quantities.

The supply of fuel for the use of the natives is paid for from this appropriation, and the cost of such fuel should not be overlooked in determining how much of the appropriation is available for other purposes. In the distribution of supplies, no distinction is to be made between persons without means and those having small savings from previous years.

You will continue the plan adopted under previous instructions of issuing orders upon the company for such supplies as are required by the native inhabitants. At the end of the season, as heretofore, you will submit to the department the stubs of the orders given, payable from the appropriation, for use in verifying the accounts of the company.

SEC. 25. COAL SUPPLY.—The North American Commercial Co. has agreed to furnish during the coming season for use on the islands 285 long tons of coal at $20 per ton, including delivery on the beach, 185 tons to be delivered on St. Paul Island and 100 tons on St. George Island. This coal, with the 80 tons additional that the company is required to furnish under the terms of its contract, will make available for all purposes a supply of 365 tons, and in its distribution the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George are to be included.

Of the 285 tons purchased from the company you may make the following distribution:

	Tons.
St Paul Island:	
For the Government house	15
For use of the natives	170
St. George Island:	
For the Government house	15
For use of the natives	85
Total	285

Of the 80 tons furnished by the company without charge under its contract, 50 tons may be distributed to the natives of St. Paul and 30 tons to the natives of St. George.

SEC. 26. DWELLINGS FOR NATIVES.—The agreement of the company in its contract to furnish the native inhabitants of the islands a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings and to keep such dwellings in proper repair should be strictly enforced.

SEC. 27. SCHOOLS FOR THE NATIVES.—You will require the schools for the native children to be maintained from September 1 to May 1, and to be open five days in each week, the school hours to be from 9 o'clock a. m. to 3 o'clock p. m., with an hour recess at noon, and 15 minutes recess in the forenoon.

It will be your duty to see that the teachers appointed by the company are competent to teach the English language, and that they faithfully perform this duty. None but the English language shall be taught in the schools.

If parents of the children on the islands desire to send them to the Jessie Lee Home at Unalaska, the department has no objection, provided no expenditure of public money is involved in their transportation to Unalaska, or their maintenance and schooling while there.

This course will also be permitted, under the same conditions, in the case of orphan children for whom provision is now made by the company under its contract.

SEC. 28. WIDOWS, ORPHANS, AGED, AND INFIRM.—The company is required by its contract to provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands who are unable to provide for themselves, and you will see that this obligation is fully enforced. Widows and orphans having small sums of money to their credit should not be compelled to spend them and become wholly dependent before they are allowed to draw supplies under this provision in the company's contract. Such sums, as well as similar accounts held by other natives, may be drawn upon from time to time, however, with the consent and under the direction of the Government agent, for such reasonable articles as will contribute to the comfort of the persons possessing the funds.

SEC. 29. NATIVES TO RENDER SERVICE.—In consideration of the support gratuitously afforded the natives by the Government, you are directed to utilize their services, when not required by the company, in repairing roads, guarding the rookeries, and performing such other duties as may seem desirable. This instruction is not to be regarded, however, as relieving the company from its obligation to employ the natives at a fair and just compensation for all such work as they are fitted to perform.

SEC. 30. ELECTION OF NATIVE CHIEFS.—No interference should be permitted in the selection of their chiefs by the native inhabitants of the islands. If it should transpire, however, that persons manifestly unsuitable for the position are chosen, it will be your duty to interpose in the interest of good government and require the selection of proper persons, but such action should be taken only in extreme cases.

SEC. 31. SALE OF INTOXICANTS PROHIBITED.—The company agrees in its contract that it will not permit any of its agents to keep, sell, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors or opium on either of the islands or the waters adjacent thereto to any of the native inhabitants, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as a medicine. This obligation is to be rigidly enforced.

SEC. 32. MANUFACTURE OF INTOXICANTS PROHIBITED.—The brewing or distilling of intoxicating beverages on the islands is prohibited. In the enforcement of this provision you are authorized to discontinue the sale from the company's stores of sugar or other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants to any person who violates this order or who is found to be intoxicated. Should intoxication become so general among the people as to interfere with good government and jeopardize the peace, you are authorized to discontinue altogether the sale of sugar and of other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants for such length of time as may appear wise.

SEC. 33. REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.—Should natives or other persons become so unruly or immoral in conduct as to endanger the peace and good government of the people, they should be removed from the islands, and the Revenue-Cutter Service will be instructed to render such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose.

SEC. 34. LANDING ON THE ISLANDS RESTRICTED.—No persons other than Government officers, representatives, and employees of the North American Commercial Co., and duly accredited representatives

of the Russian Church shall be allowed to land on the islands except by written authority from the department. The permission granted representatives of the Russian Church to visit the islands may be suspended, however, when its exercise is attempted by an improper person. Visitors to the islands should not be permitted to inspect the rookeries except under your supervision.

SEC. 35. KILLING OF SEA LIONS TO BE LIMITED.—The preservation of the sea-lion rookeries on the islands is highly important. The killing of these animals should be limited to such numbers as are absolutely necessary in providing for the construction of bidarras or skin boats. Sea-lion pups should not be killed for any purpose.

SEC. 36. INFORMATION REGARDING AFFAIRS ON THE ISLANDS.—No information regarding the seals, or any other matter pertaining to the seal islands, is to be given out by you or by any of the assistant agents. All applications for such information should be referred to the department.

SEC. 37. CONCLUSION.—The maintenance of guards on isolated rookeries, to prevent illegal landings and raids, should be continued.

Should questions arise involving matters not covered by these instructions it will be your duty to report the facts to the department and to await instructions, except in cases requiring immediate decision, when you will take such action as sound judgment dictates.

The instructions embodied in this letter are to remain in force until they are superseded by later ones, and in the event of your failure to receive revised instructions for a subsequent season, the directions herein given are to be followed for such season so far as they are applicable.

Three additional copies of this letter are inclosed herewith, and you are directed to furnish one of these copies to each of the assistant agents for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE O. MURRAY,
Assistant Secretary.

APRIL 30, 1908.

SIR: Authority is hereby given for the travel of yourself and Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, in the spring of 1908, and of Assistant Agents James Judge and E. W. Clark from the Pribilof Islands to Washington, D. C., in the fall of 1908, such travel to be by the most direct and usually traveled routes. If excess baggage is necessary for the travel authorized, charges therefor may be included in amounts not to exceed $30 for each agent for the trip going out. On the return trip 100 pounds of excess baggage will be allowed, if actually necessary, and not to exceed 250 pounds may be transported as freight direct from San Francisco, Cal., through the Quartermaster's Department via Ogden.

The actual necessary expenses of yourself and the assistant agents for board and lodging at San Francisco, Cal., not to exceed $5 per diem, during such reasonable time as may be necessary for the transaction of official business pending your departure for Alaska, will be allowed. Your arrival on the Pacific coast should be so timed as to relieve the department of any charges for detention there for a longer period than required for the transaction of official business. This

injunction applies as well to the stay on the Pacific coast of yourself and the assistant agents upon your return from Alaska en route to the department.

Yours, respectfully, OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

[Memorandum in re printing a new edition of the pamphlet containing the Paris award (fur-seal fisheries).]

Since the transfer from the Treasury Department of the fur-seal service it is not known that any applications have been made to this department for copies of the document in question. Furthermore, there is no apparent need in this department for pamphlet copies of the award. So far as I can see, the printing of the award in pamphlet form will meet no necessity in this department.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

MAY 4, 1908.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 20, 1908.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

Sailing delayed until 24th. Address Hotel Jefferson.

LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

MAY 22, 1908.

SIR: I have given a letter, of which the inclosed is a copy, to Hon. Francis W. Cushman, M. C., granting permission to Capt. A. M. Baber, the concessionary of the Eskimo village at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, to taking moving pictures of the natives and scenery on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

My purpose is to permit him to photograph anything he finds of interest, excepting the actual killing of the seals. The President agrees with me that to take moving pictures of the actual killing of the seals and to exhibit them promiscuously, which, of course, would be done, would have a brutalizing effect, and it is not in the interest of public morals that such should be done. Therefore, I have carefully eliminated any permission to photograph the process of killing. I have also reserved in you the right to supervise the permission, knowing that you will use your good judgment in the matter, as I see no objection whatever to taking pictures which will illustrate the scenery and the life, customs, habits, and dwelling places of the natives. Views of this kind are not only interesting, but instructive from an anthropological point of view.

In this connection I also beg to advise you that I brought the subject of your letter, recommending the sending of a gunboat, to the attention of the President, and he directed the Secretary of the Navy to send the same. It is very important that you use good and calm judgment, and I also desire to warn you against any mis-

understandings or conflict of authority. All of this kind of disagreements can be easily avoided, and I am sure you will avoid them by the use of tact and good judgment. Such conflicts always discredit the service, are harmful to the best interests of the Government, and defeat the very purposes intended to be served. I trust nothing untoward will happen this season, and that the gunboat will prove to be the ounce of prevention.

Respectfully,

OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

Mr. WALTER. I. LEMKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries of Alaska,
Pribilof Islands, Alaska,
Care North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

[Copy.]

MAY 22, 1908.

SIR: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, advising me that between June and October, 1909, there will be held at Seattle, Wash., the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, and that one of the great features of this exposition is designed to be not only an exhibit of the resources of Alaska, but also numerous exhibits showing the life and customs of the natives; and further, that Capt. A. W. Lewis, director of the division of concessions of said fair, has written you that one Capt. A. W. Baber, a resident of Seattle, has been granted a concession by the fair to place therein an exhibit showing the "Eskimo village;" that a part of this exhibit is intended to be a moving-picture theater, and that Capt. Baber expects to secure the pictures for this exhibit, or a part of them, on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, comprising the group known as the Pribilof Islands, located in Bering Sea; and that Capt. Baber owns the schooner *Sophia Johnson*, and intends to leave Seattle for the islands on May 25. You ask that Capt. Baber be given a permit to land upon these islands, and that written authority be sent you which will enable him to do so, and that it will be perfectly satisfactory if such documents contain any and all restrictions which I may wish to incorporate therein.

Authority is hereby given to Capt. Baber to land on the Pribilof Islands, namely, St. Paul and St. George, and to take pictures of the natives and of the scenery, under such restrictions and conditions as may be imposed by the department's agent in charge of said islands. It is expressly understood, however, that Capt. Baber shall not take pictures of the killing of the seals, for the reason that I deem it contrary to the public interest to exhibit the slaughtering of these animals before promiscuous audiences who can not be familiar with the circumstances and conditions which permit such slaughtering to be done under carefully guarded limitations and supervision.

A copy of this letter will be forwarded to Mr. Walter I. Lembkey, agent in charge of seal fisheries of Alaska, Pribilof Islands, care of North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

Respectfully,

(Signed) OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

Hon. FRANCIS W. CUSHMAN,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 14, 1908.*

SIR: I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of May 22 last, kindly inclosing for my information a copy of your letter to Hon. F. W. Cushman of even date, granting permission to Capt. A. W. Baber, of Seattle, to take photographs on the seal islands for exhibition in a moving-picture theater at the Alaska-Yukon Exposition.

In this connection I have the honor to report that Capt. Baber landed on St. Paul July 1 on the gasoline schooner *Sophia Johnson*. While I did not have at that time the copy of the letter to which you refer, I carefully scrutinized his letter of authority furnished by you, and informed him that he was welcome to photograph anything he might see on the island except the actual killing of seals, which, however, was not then in progress. Accompanied by a guide furnished by me, therefore, he visited a rookery and remained there for nearly two hours taking photographs of seals. He also photographed agents, natives, dwellings, boats, etc., after which he returned aboard and set out for Nome.

Adverting to that portion of your letter enjoining the avoidance of misunderstanding and conflict of authority by the use of tact and good judgment, it gives me pleasure to say that I have endeavored sedulously during the past summer and before to establish relations of cordiality with all whose duty connects them with this reservation, and especially with the commanders of patrolling vessels. Outside of any ethical reason, harmony is essential from a practical standpoint, as the islands are dependent upon these vessels for protection and assistance, and the best measure of each can not be obtained without good will. That I have been more or less successful in maintaining this relation is shown by the readiness with which each suggestion for the furtherance of the islands' interests was acted upon this summer by the Cutter Service. It is only fair to state, however, that in this endeavor I have been more than met by the revenue-cutter captains, who have overlooked no opportunity to cooperate in conserving the interests of the Government. I feel very grateful to them.

I had no opportunity of communicating with the captain of the *Yorktown*, which arrived off this island about July 7, and approached the village but twice, when she remained only a short time. On each of these occasions I was absent at Northeast Point on official business, and upon my return to the village the *Yorktown* had steamed away. None of the officers or men from the *Yorktown* came ashore.

During the remainder of the season I apprehend no serious complication in connection with the pelagic fleet off the island.

Very respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

To Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

HOTEL JEFFERSON,
SAN FRANCISCO.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: We leave to-morrow at 6.30 a. m., hoping to reach the islands before June 15. I will report my arrival there together with a brief résumé of conditions as found upon arrival. I have your telegram announcing the detail of a gunboat.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES.

JUNE 15, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to request information as to what arrangements, if any, have been made to transport Agents Judge and Clark, with their wives, from the seal islands to the States.

The agents' travel heretofore has been on the steamer of the North American Commercial Co., leaving the islands near August 15 of each year. This year, however, the company is unable to haul any of the agents from the islands because its steamer has no passenger accommodations and space enough to carry only its own employees. It is really necessary for the agents this fall to avail themselves of the means of transportation afforded by the revenue cutters now on patrol.

The sealing season on the islands closes on July 31, after which the agents mentioned desire to return to the States. Agent Judge and his wife have spent two successive winters on the islands and Agent Clark and his wife one year. The cutters, under their instructions, will not leave the sea until November 1 or thereabouts. Even under this arrangement, should transportation on cutters be furnished them, it is obvious that it would be in the nature of a hardship to require Agents Judge and Clark to remain on the islands for over two months after their work has been completed solely for lack of transportation, especially when they have spent already two and one years, respectively, at their stations. This would result in taking that amount of time from the short period they have to remain in the States.

At the time of my departure from Washington in May the question of the transportation of the agents from the islands this fall was being discussed between Acting Secretary Earl and Capt. Ross, of the Revenue-Cutter Service, but no definite arrangement had been made when I left.

If it is not feasible for a cutter to take the agents mentioned from the islands directly to Seattle near the 1st of August, I have the honor to suggest that arrangements be made for a cutter to call for them at the islands at that time and take them to Valdez, where they may take a steamer for Seattle. This latter arrangement will meet the situation and will not result in taking a cutter off the patrol for any extended period.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 17, 1908.*

SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival, on the 12th instant, at this station.

I left San Francisco May 24 on the *McCulloch* and arrived at Unalaska, via Sitka, on June 10. On the 11th instant I left Unalaska on the *Rush*, landing on St. Paul the following day. Agent Chichester, who came with me, was landed on St. George by the *Rush* on June 14. I was unable to land on the latter island because of bad weather.

Conditions on St. Paul were found to be good. Agent Judge is entitled to commendation for his efficient management of affairs during the winter. Reports received from St. George from Agent Clark indicate favorable conditions there.

No seals have been killed this spring except a few for food. The salt house on St. Paul Island contained, on my arrival, 1,192 sealskins. No marking of bachelors has occurred on St. Paul, because few seals of that character have hauled as yet.

A critical examination of the breeding bulls found on the rookeries of this island indicates that the number of this class will be as large as last year, and probably greater. Numbers of young bulls, stationed for the first time, are noted, demonstrating the efficacy of the regulations reserving bachelors for breeding purposes.

Only a few cows have arrived, and no opportunity has been afforded for judging what decrease in their numbers has occurred during past year.

No sealing schooners thus far have been sighted in the sea. The cutter patrol, however, already is active. Two vessels are constantly about St. Paul, and a third visits St. George at intervals of about two days, spending the remaining time at St. Paul, around which the whole sealing fleet gathers. In their journey to Unalaska, all of the cutters followed the coast line of Alaska, but only two sealing schooners—both Japanese—were encountered during that cruising. A sealing schooner of the nationality mentioned is reported to have landed a portion of its crew near Sitka, in the close vicinity of the naval station at that port, who were engaged in fishing and killing game out of season until they were apprehended by a posse comitatus under the direction of the United States deputy marshal at Sitka.

I will report conditions here during the summer at every opportunity.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES.
WASHINGTON.

JUNE 17, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. BOWEN: May I ask you to forward to me at St. Paul Island about 25 copies of my recent report on the seal fisheries? I had mailed several to the islands, but they went astray in the mails. If they were mailed soon after the receipt of this letter, in care of the North American Commercial Co., Mills Building, San Francisco, they would reach us by the vessel of that company sailing from the port named on July 25.

We had a rather rough passage to the islands, but arrived safely, and find conditions on the island everything that might be expected. We have two cutters constantly about St. Paul Island, while one devotes a portion of her time about St. George. No sealing schooners have been seen in the sea so far, but 38 Japanese are known to be on their way. With the efficient patrol, we do not anticipate any raids, although the artillery is planted, the small arms ready for use, and guards placed on the rookeries.

Mr. Judge and Maj. Clark will be with you during the winter, but when they will arrive I can not say, as they will have to depend upon cutters for passage down, and the cutters do not leave until November.

With thanks in advance for the favor involved in the above request and with my personal regards, I am, believe me,

Very sincerely, yours, W. I. LEMBKEY.

Mr. F. H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

JULY 6, 1908.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

MY DEAR MR. LEMBKEY: I have received your letter of June 17, and in accordance with your request am sending you 50 copies of your last report on the seal fisheries. I find that we have a large number of copies of the report, so have taken the liberty of sending the additional copies also. The packages containing these reports should reach you on the same boat that brings this letter.

I am very glad to get your letter and to know that everything is in good shape on and around the islands so far as the protection of the seals is concerned. I trust with the additional cutters on patrol and with your shore armament the Japanese or other pirates will not attack the rookeries this year. I wish you might be with us during the coming winter, but I shall do all that I can to assist Maj. Clark and Mr. Judge while they are here. I suppose there is one consolation about staying on the islands, namely, that letters from friend Elliott are not as frequent as they are here in Washington. I think we have not heard from him since your departure from Washington.

With kindest regards and very best wishes for your health and comfort, I remain,

Very truly, yours, FRANK H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 30, 1908.*

WILLIAM L. SOLEAU,
Disbursing Clerk, Department Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.:

Vouchers for salary for fiscal year ended June 30, 1907, on way to Washington. Please prevent amount of same going back into Treasury under one-year rule.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Seal Islands.

JULY 27, 1908.

SIR: The department is in receipt of your letter of June 15, 1908, advising it that this year the North American Commercial Co. is unable to "haul any of the agents from the islands because its steamer has no passenger accommodations and space enough to carry only its own employees," and requesting that arrangements be made for the use of a revenue cutter to transport Agents Judge and Clark from the islands at the termination of their services, about August 1, 1908.

In reply thereto you are advised that orders have been issued by the Treasury Department to Capt. Munger, of the Revenue-Cutter Service, to transfer Agents Judge and Clark, with their wives, from the islands to Unalaska, thus enabling them to connect with the steamer *Dora* for the United States. The Treasury Department was requested to furnish a cutter to transport the agents, with their wives, from the islands to Seattle, but upon consideration it was determined that this request could not be granted, as no cutter was available for the trip except those now patrolling the waters in the vicinity of the islands, and the vessels engaged in the patrol could not be spared for that length of time.

The department trusts that the arrangement finally agreed upon, as above indicated, will prove satisfactory, as it is the best that could be done under the circumstances.

Very respectfully, WM. R. WHEELER,
Assistant Secretary.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent, St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *October 5, 1908.*

SIR: In view of the fact that the North American Commercial Co. now has no facilities for carrying the Government agents from the seal islands to the States, I have the honor to request that the Treasury Department be asked to authorize a cutter to take myself and wife to St. Michaels next summer, where I may take passage either on a river steamboat going up the Yukon to connect with the White Pass Railroad at White Horse Rapids, or on an ocean steamer going

to Seattle. As it is the practice for a revenue cutter to report at St. Michaels every two weeks during the summer to communicate by wireless with the department, such journey will entail no extra service on the cutter's part, nor will it result in taking the cutter off patrol duty.

In view of the advantage which the journey on the Yukon will afford in acquainting myself with conditions in Alaska, of which, at the present time I am unfamiliar, I urgently request that I may be authorized to return to Washington next summer by way of the Yukon River. The slight extra expense involved, in my opinion, will be justified. I infer that Agent Chichester, also, will be willing to take the same journey.

Very respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 13, 1908.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the lessee of the sealing concession on the Pribilof Islands secured, during the season ended July 31, 1908, its full designated quota of 15,000 sealskins, of which 2,500 were taken on St. George and 12,500 on St. Paul. Of the whole number taken, the company will ship to San Francisco on its steamer *Grace Dollar*, 14,964 skins. From its catch during the season mentioned there were retained on the islands by the Government agents 33 small and 4 large skins taken by the company, the weights of which failed to conform to the regulation requiring that skins taken should weigh over 5 and under $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

The count of breeding bulls stationed on the rookeries of St. Paul Island during the season of 1908 is as follows: Bulls with harems, 1,062; idle bulls, 90; young bulls, "quitters," 45; water bulls, 68.

The above figures, which represent an accurate count of all bulls on the island, show a decrease of 31 stationed bulls from the count of the preceding year, 1907.

On St. George Island the count of bulls stationed in 1908 shows the following: Bulls with harems, 241; idle bulls, 34; "quitters," 27.

The foregoing count for St. George indicates an increase of 54 stationed bulls over the number present in 1907. The counts for both islands show that, notwithstanding the heavy killing of seals in the water, a slight increase in the number of breeding bulls on the two islands has occurred.

The fact that the number of bulls found on St. Paul indicates a decrease, while that on St. George an increase is due, in my opinion, to the presence of practically the whole pelagic fleet about St. Paul, operating so close to land that on several instances the noise of their gunfire drove off the young male seals from their hauling grounds. This constant disturbance in the water and on land has had the effect during this and the preceding year of forcing bachelors to St.

George, where there is little disturbance, and, undoubtedly, of diminishing the number of bulls that normally would have hauled on St. Paul. How many of these males perished in the waters about the islands through the agency of pelagic sealing can not be known.

Because of the constant presence of pelagic schooners about the islands and the counter effort on our part to avoid all possible disturbance of the rookeries beyond that absolutely necessary, the counting of pups to determine the number of cows present was limited to one rookery on each island—Ketovi on St. Paul and North on St. George. These counts, while approximately accurate, are unsatisfactory in that they show the condition of these rookeries to be practically the same as last year, without indicating that any decrease has occurred as the result of the steady destruction of seals in the water. While this decrease is visually apparent on the rookeries when taken as a whole, Ketovi and North rookeries for some reason unknown at present neither present this diminution to the eye nor disclose it when an actual count of seals present thereon is made. Under ordinary circumstances it would have been desirable to extend this counting to other rookeries, but to do so would have entailed the driving into the water of all breeding seals on such rookeries, a practice which would have merited the favorable indorsement of the whole pelagic fleet. Rather than make these further counts for the purpose of determining not that a decrease had occurred but merely the rate or volume of such decrease, I deemed it to be for the best interests of the service to allow the matter to rest with the enumeration of but one rookery on either island.

Pelagic sealing about the islands has been more active than hitherto, and, if anything, the sealers have been more aggressive than before. This summer instances have been noted repeatedly at Northeast Point on St. Paul of the boats from half a dozen schooners advancing abreast on that rookery until within a short distance of shore, when their occupants would begin a fusillade from their shotguns which would have the effect of disturbing the seals and of driving many of those ashore into the water. The boats then would withdraw to a safe distance from shore and their crews proceed to kill those seals which they had just frightened off the land. This practice has had the effect of materially decreasing the catch of sealskins from Northeast Point rookery, the largest on the islands, and undoubtedly of augmenting the pelagic catch. On several occasions boats from the schooners came so close to shore shooting seals that the native guards were obliged to fire off their rifles to warn the marauders away. No landings were made on either of the two islands in the reservation, although a boat's party from the *Saikai Maru* was observed to land on Walrus Island, an islet unfrequented by seals in numbers and uninhabited by man. The remains of a seal carcass were found on this island after the boat's party had departed.

Two Japanese schooners were seized this summer, on July 22, both by the U. S. S. *Bear*. On this occasion both schooners were found killing seals inside the 3-mile limit and had not breeze enough to escape upon the approach of the cutter. They were named respectively the *Saikai Maru* and the *Kinsei Maru*. The schooners were towed to Unalaska by the U. S. S. *Rush*, whence later the crews were taken by the *Bear* to Unga for commitment proceedings before a United States commissioner.

The patrol by vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service during the past summer has been the best in the history of the islands. The commanders of these vessels have spared no effort to prevent violations of our laws and protect the rookeries from raids. Furthermore, all the captains have not been sparing in offers of transportation to the agents, company employees, and natives of the islands, and of assistance in every way. I desire to express here my deep appreciation of the value of the services rendered this summer to the islands by the Revenue-Cutter Service.

There were marked and released on the islands this spring the 2,000 young male seals required by the regulations to be reserved for future breeding purposes.

The blue fox catch on St. George Island last winter aggregated 438 blues and 8 whites, in addition to 2 small blues taken for museum purposes. No foxes were taken on St. Paul because there were not enough foxes on that island to justify trapping any.

A detailed report of the summer's work will be submitted to you as soon as it can be prepared.

Very respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

To Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

SEATTLE, WASH., *August 25, 1908.*

The honorable the SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have respectfully to report my arrival in this city this day, via Seward and Valdez, Alaska, per mail steamers.

I left the island of St. George on the 31st of July. The sealing quota of that island was completed on the 25th of July, to wit, 2,500 skins.

The Japanese poachers, 58 in number, which were arrested by the cutter *Bear* about the middle of July, were at Unga undergoing a preliminary trial when I passed that place the 7th of August on the mail steamer.

I request a leave of absence for 10 days before leaving for East, if consistent with the public interest.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, September 1, 1908.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Agent Fur-Seal Fisheries, Seattle, Wash.:

Leave of absence granted by Secretary as requested. Report here 15th instant.

FRANK H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
San Francisco, Cal., August 26, 1908.

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

Report arrival with cargo of sealskins. Quota this season 14,964. Request that I be allowed until October 1 before reporting at department.

JAS. JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Island.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, D. C., September 1, 1908.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries,
Care American Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Leave of absence until October 1 is granted by Secretary.

(Signed) FRANK H. BOWEN,
Chief Clerk.

Official business:
(Signed) FRANK H. BOWEN, *Chief Clerk.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Seattle, Wash., September 9, 1908.

F. H. BOWEN, Esq.,
Chief Clerk, Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: I have been detained here longer than I expected, owing to two holidays, and I shall feel compelled, when I reach Chicago, to ask for three days' additional delay in reporting at the department. I have a couple of sons in Chicago whom I have not seen for 16 months, and I could not go through without stopping. Besides, my wife will probably be there to join me.

Kindly look out for my request for three days' delay.

Yours, very truly,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, etc.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

19WU UF.E. 30 Collect GR.

CHICAGO, ILL., *September 15, 1908.*

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C.:

Request delay reporting at Washington until 19th instant.

EZRA W. CLARK, *Asst. Fur Seal Agent,*
Care American-Sistering Railway,
Exchange Building, Chicago.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
WASHINGTON.

Request for extension of four days' leave beyond amount granted September 1. If Secretary does not need to see Clark personally, I know of no objection. Has been on islands two winters and three summers.

F. H. B.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, September 15, 1908.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Care American-Sistering Railway,
Exchange Building, Hyde Park, Chicago, Ill.

Replying your telegram to-day extension until 19th granted.

STRAUS, *Secretary.*

Official business:
FRANK H. BOWEN, *Chief Clerk.*

ANNUAL REPORT SEAL FISHERIES OF ALASKA, 1908.

By WALTER I. LEMBKEY, Agent in Charge.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, September 15, 1908.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following annual report of the administration of affairs on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, reservation during the season of 1908:

Under instructions from you I departed from Washington on May 13 for San Francisco, where, on May 23, I took passage on the U. S. S. *McCulloch* for Unalaska, arriving there June 9. On June 10, I embarked on the U. S. S. *Rush* for St. Paul Island, arriving there the following day, June 11.

RESERVATION OF BACHELORS FOR BREEDING PURPOSES.

Notwithstanding the fact that it is desirable to dispose as expeditiously as possible of the work of marking bachelors for the annual breeding reservation, this duty could not be begun on St. Paul until June 24, because seals enough were not hauled on shore. Beginning on this date, however, the marking was carried on as expeditiously as possible and was finished June 27. A list of the drives made for this purpose, and the number of seals marked from each, follows:

Bachelors marked on St. Paul Island, 1908.

Date.	Rookery.	2 years.	3 years.
June 24	Reef	572	380
25	Zapadni	119	163
27	Northeast Point	109	257
	Total	800	800

The methods used in marking these bachelors so that they might be distinguished when appearing in subsequent drives, were the same as have been described in previous reports, and need not be detailed here. Sheep shears were used to cut a patch of hair off the head of each seal reserved.

On St. George the marking of bachelors was begun on June 12 and was completed on the 24th of the same month. The quota for that island was 400.

KILLING OF SEALS.

The killing of seals by the lessee began immediately after the marking of bachelors was completed, and continued until the end of the season, July 31, except on St. George, where the quota of 2,500 was obtained on July 25. Drives were made from all the hauling grounds on both islands as often as the number of seals hauled there justified. The entire quota of 15,000 seals was obtained.

INCREASE OF ST. GEORGE QUOTA.

It was found that, proportionately, more seals were hauling on St. George than usual, as was the case last year. The stipulated quota for that island of 2,000 was obtained by July 16. In view of this fact, and by virtue of the appropriate clause in my instructions from the department, I increased the St. George quota by a further amount of 500 skins, reducing at the same time the St. Paul quota by that number. This made the St. George quota 2,500 and that of St. Paul 12,500.

NUMBER KILLED ON ST. PAUL.

During the season of 1908, beginning June 27, there were taken by the lessee on the island mentioned 11,308 skins. These, added to 16 skins left on hand from the preceding season and 1,176 killed for food during the previous fall and spring, made a total of 12,500, the quota assigned for that island.

From this number there were deducted 32 skins retained by the Government agents as being either over or under the weights prescribed by the regulations. The remaining skins, 12,468, were placed on board the lessee's steamer *Grace Dollar* on August 14, 1908, for shipment to San Francisco.

NUMBER OF DRIVES ON ST. PAUL.

During the season of 1908, on St. Paul Island, 29 drives were made by the lessee for skins, not including 1 made at Northeast Point to furnish bachelors for marking, from which drive the residue of seals driven, after the number to be marked had been obtained, furnished 236 skins. In this list of drives made, 2 drives were often recorded from 1 killing, as, on quite a few instances, 2 rookeries were driven on the same day and the seals therefrom properly could have been merged as 1 drive; they were kept distinct, however, for the purpose of more careful scrutiny. For instance, a drive would be made from Tolstoi on the same day as one also from the Reef. Both these rookeries lie close to the village, and the seals from each rookery would reach the same killing ground at the same time. They would not be allowed to intermingle, however, but would be kept apart for the purpose of obtaining segregated data from each rookery.

By a reference to the statistics for 1907, it will be found that only 10,755 seals were actually taken during the lessee's sealing season, the remainder of the quota of 12,400 for that year being made up of 1,645 seals taken for food or left on hand from the season of 1906. As the lessee in 1908 obtained 11,308 skins, it follows that there were actually killed on St. Paul during the lessee's killing season of 1908 553 more seals than were taken during their preceding season in the same number of drives. As it was, the lessee made no special effort to obtain its quota in 1908, and had in reserve a drive at Northeast Point, which it could have made on the 31st, had a scarcity of seals at the village made it necessary. This drive, however, was not made.

PERCENTAGE OF SEALS KILLED ON ST. PAUL, 1908.

On St. Paul the percentage of seals killed to the whole number driven averaged 65 per cent, the several killings ranging from 41 to 82 per cent. Three drives only were made in which the percentage killed exceeded 80 per cent, and two of these were small drives. Contrasting this with the preceding season, we find that the average percentage killed in 1908 was 5 per cent lower than in 1907.

KILLING ON ST. GEORGE.

On St. George 13 drives—2 drives less than the preceding year—were made, in which were taken 2,500 skins, an average of 192 skins for each drive. Of this number 2,496 were shipped on August 11 on the *Grace Dollar*. It is stated by Agent Chichester, on St. George, that 5 skins were retained as being outside the prescribed weights, which number added to the 2,496 shipped would make a total of 2,501 skins taken during the season.

The percentage of seals killed from the whole number driven by the lessee on St. George varied from 31 to 62 per cent for the season, an average which exceeds that of the previous season 2 per cent.

STATISTICS OF KILLINGS, 1908.

An examination of the killing record for the year mentioned for St. Paul during the lessee's killing season shows that 17,149 male seals appeared in the drives made by it, from which 11,308, or 65 per cent, were killed. During the preceding season of 1907, in the period during which the lessee killed seals, 15,355 seals appeared, and 10,335, or 70 per cent, were killed. This shows that while 553 more seals were killed on St. Paul than in 1907 the percentage released in 1908 was greater by 5 per cent.

In 1907 sealing on St. Paul was finished practically on July 27, all but 57 of the legal quota having been obtained on that date. Had it been necessary, additional drives could have been made in that year from Reef, Zapadni, Tolstoi, Northeast Point, and Halfway Point, from which, in all probability, 1,000 more skins could have been secured. In 1908, while sealing was prolonged until July 31, additional drives could have been made at Zapadni and Northeast Point had such action been necessary to secure the quota.

In 1907, 29 drives, and in 1908 the same number, excluding one made for branding, were made, indicating that even if in the latter year sealing were carried on until the end of the season the drives numbered practically the same in both years.

Attention is called here to the fact that in 1908, 3 drives were made from Reef, in each of which over 1,000 seals were killed. In one of the drives, on July 17, 1,458 seals were killed out of 2,081 appearing in the drive, the largest drive and the largest killing for some years.

On St. George, the record shows that during the lessee's sealing season (June and July, 1908) 2,000 skins were secured, to obtain which 4,292 were driven. The number killed in these drives represents 46 per cent of the whole number driven. In 1908, 13 drives were made as against 17 in 1907. The sealing season of 1908 on St. George ended on July 25, with 6 lawful killing days remaining. Had sealing on St. George been continued until July 31, undoubtedly several hundred more skins could have been taken.

DISMISSALS FROM DRIVES.

On St. Paul, during the lessee's sealing season of 1908, there were 2,091 small and 1,526 large dismissals from drives made by it. In addition, there were 2,224 dismissals of seals marked that year for breeders.

The large seals dismissed were composed of 375 4-year-olds, 515 5-year-olds, 441 6-year-olds, and 233 7-year-olds and adult bulls. Concerning these latter animals (the 7-year-olds and adult bulls), it should be said that prior to July 15 those dismissed of this class were young bulls that had not succeeded up to this time in obtaining stations on the rookeries. Some of these bore wounds which showed that they had made the attempt to establish themselves among the cows, but had been driven off by the rookery bulls already stationed, after which they had hauled among the bachelors to rest before

again making the attempt to secure a harem. After the date mentioned, however, while young bulls still appeared among the rejected seals some mature bulls were noted also, which evidently had finished their period of service on the breeding rookeries and had hauled up among the bachelors to sleep and rest. These old bulls could be distinguished easily by their gaunt and emaciated appearance and their generally dejected bearing, although some of them still showed spirit and resented the lack of ceremony with which they were hustled through the killing drives.

On St. George, during the season mentioned, there were dismissed 834 large and 989 small seals, and 788 of the young seals marked in the spring. Of the large turned away from the St. George drives, 169 were 4-year-olds, 311 5-year-olds, 211 6-year-olds, and 143 bulls either young or mature.

The dismissals from both islands, compiled from the foregoing, are as follows:

Dismissals from drives, 1908, large, 2,360; small, 3,080; branded, 3,012.

The large dismissals from St. George include those ineligible seals turned away from the drives made for marking bachelors. The statistics for St. Paul exclude those drives. Had note been taken on St. Paul of those seals dismissed from the drives made by the agents for securing the quota of reserved bachelors, a much larger record of large young seals turned away would have resulted.

By consulting the table of dismissals for 1907 we find that 7,709 seals of all classes were turned away in that year, while 8,452 were dismissed in 1908. As fewer drives were made in 1908, it would follow that seals hauled more plentifully in that than in the preceding year. It can not be claimed that any increase in the number of bachelors present has occurred.

CHANGE IN HAULING HABITS OF BACHELORS.

Bachelors were present on St. George the last summer in larger numbers even than in 1907, when the number hauling there was so much more than usual as to require a readjustment of the quotas for the two islands. In both years the allotted quota of 2,000 for St. George was obtained by the middle of July, with two weeks of the best part of the sealing season remaining. The increased quota of 2,500 for that island was secured in 1908 on July 25, six days before the legal end of the sealing season. Furthermore, from the very beginning of the season of 1908 bachelors hauled on St. George so plentifully as to justify the prediction that the St. George quota would be obtained early in the season. In addition to this, the average number of seals in each drive killed on St. George was increased from 138 in 1907 to 192 in 1908. From the early date on which the St. George was obtained in 1908 it was apparent that at least 500 more skins could have been secured had killing been continued until the end of the season.

In contrast to this the change in the hauling habits of bachelors on St. Paul was marked. The largest breeding rookery on that island, Northeast Point, heretofore has furnished more skins than any other rookery. There was, in other words, a proper relation between the number of breeding seals on the rookery and the number

of bachelors frequenting its hauling grounds. The largest drives to be made were expected from Northeast Point.

The annual catch of skins from this large rookery, however, has diminished steadily from 4,454 in 1905 to 2,768 in 1908. Zapadni, another large rookery, has also fallen off in its yield from 3,305 in 1905 to 1,699 in 1908. Polavina and Tolstoi rookeries have continued practically without change to furnish only a few skins to the quota.

As contrasted with this, Reef rookery, including Gorbatch, has increased its catch of skins from 3,744 in 1905 to 5,911 in 1908, while the breeding seals thereon at the same time were steadily diminishing in numbers as they were on all the other rookeries.

It can be seen from this that the yield of skins from all of the large hauling grounds of St. Paul has been reduced materially with the sole exception of Reef, which has had its catch augmented 63 per cent. On the other hand, enough additional bachelors frequent St. George, as already shown, as to be able in an emergency to increase its conventional quota of 2,000 by 50 per cent.

We have next to consider the cause of this reversal of conditions and we find that this change has been contemporaneous with the establishment of a cordon of Japanese schooners about St. Paul Island, operating within sight of land and using the noisy shotgun exclusively to capture seals. When we realize that this firing is close to land, and is practically continuous about St. Paul during the entire summer, we can easily infer that it has a direct influence upon the bachelors as they haul up from the water. When we know also that bachelors have become more plentiful on St. George, an island that is almost free from disturbance by the seal hunters, we have an additional fact that would point to the conclusion that pelagic sealing close to St. Paul has changed the hauling habits of the bachelors.

These bachelors have no fixed habitat, but loiter about the rookeries, hauling up when they desire to sleep or rest. When in the water they pass close to shore from one rookery to another. They are migratory in their habits, as bachelors found on Reef rookery to-day, for example, may be on Northeast Point to-morrow, while St. Paul bachelors often are found on St. George, and vice versa. This has been shown clearly by observations made of the marked bachelors.

It is well known, also, that bachelors are the most timid and elusive members of the species. Breeding seals can not be driven away from a locality during the rutting season, and, at that time, display little fear of man. The bachelors, on the other hand, go hurriedly into the water upon sight of a man, and can be startled even by the scent of man coming down on the wind from quite a distance. The daily visitation by man of a hauling ground would prevent bachelors remaining there at all. It is easily conceivable, therefore, that the constant firing of guns in the water close to the rookeries and hauling grounds would tend to disturb these bachelors, and change, to a degree, their hauling habits.

The same reason why bachelors should frequent St. George in greater numbers since the coming of the Japanese fleet to the islands applies in the case of their hauling in greater numbers on Reef rookery on St. Paul. The reason is that they seem to seek a locality

where they may be removed from the rattle and bang of the shotgun fleet. This fleet, as will be stated later, when off St. Paul is composed of two divisions. One, and by far the greater, has its rendezvous off Northeast Point, while the other and smaller division operates off West Point. The ebb and flow of the tides cause swift currents about the reefs of St. Paul, which are strongest at Northeast Point, West Point, and Reef Point. At these places tide rips are formed, and for these rips the seals seem to have a preference, as numbers of seals are found in these rips at all times. Undoubtedly they make use, either voluntarily or otherwise, of these currents in passing from one point of the island to another, and, as these currents converge at the places stated, this might form a reason why these rips contain a large number of seals. In or near these rips at West and Northeast Points the sealers' small boats work, daily shooting at seals found there and creating that noise and disturbance which can not but have the effect of driving seals away from those localities, just as a constant disturbance on a hauling ground would cause the seals to abandon that place.

Reef Point, on the other hand, is approximately midway between these two extremes of the island. It is near the village, and therefore free from marauders, as any attempt to approach it unlawfully would be detected easily and punished. It has large and attractive hauling grounds of its own, in addition to its being only a short distance from Sea Lion Rock, which men seldom visit. With all its natural advantages it has the added and grateful one of being so far removed from the fleet that the noise of the shooting never penetrates its mossy shoals and seductive currents. In these the bachelors may play unharmed and undisturbed. It is not hard to believe that bachelors resort here after being constantly disturbed by the incessant sea hunting at the two extremes of the island.

On this hypothesis, also, one can readily infer why bachelors frequent St. George in greater numbers than before the Japanese fleet closed in on St. Paul. While several schooners hovered about St. George during the summer, as before stated, their presence was not continuous, and with one or two excepted occasions their boats kept well off land. That condition of quiet, desired by seal life, was present about St. George, and it is not surprising that the bachelors should have congregated there, as they did on Reef, after having been frightened and harassed by the continued discharge of firearms in the areas where the fleet hunted.

I believe it safe to conclude that bachelor seals gathered in certain localities in unusual numbers within the last two years to escape the disturbance from sea hunting to which they were subjected in other localities where, normally, they resort.

ENUMERATION OF SEAL LIFE.

Counts of breeding seals.—Between the dates of July 13–16 the breeding bulls on St. Paul were carefully counted by Agent Judge and myself. As the result of this enumeration 1,062 harems were found, together with 90 idle bulls, 48 so-called "quitters," and 68 water bulls. The young bulls on the hauling grounds, where the bachelors congregate, while quite a few in number, were not counted

with the breeding seals, as they had been noted from time to time during the summer among the seals dismissed from the killing drives.

The harem bulls and idle bulls are those stationed on the rookeries among the cows. The quitters are those young bulls which are among the cows also, but which run away at our approach. The water bulls are those found on the beach line in front of the rookery spaces.

A comparison of this count with the number present in 1907 follows:

Breeding bulls, St. Paul Island.

Years.	Bulls with harems.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Water bulls.
1907	1,122	61	74	100
1908	1,062	90	48	68
Decrease	60	[1] 29	26	32

[1] Increase.

The foregoing comparison between the statistics of the two years shows that a decrease in every class of bulls has occurred on St. Paul except in that of the idle bulls, in which an increase of 29 is noted.

On St. George the breeding bulls were counted by Assistant Agents Chichester and Clark on July 12 and 13, 1908, when they found 241 bulls with harems, 34 idle bulls, and 27 quitters. A comparison of this count with that of 1907 follows:

Breeding bulls, St. George.

Year.	Bulls with harems.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.
1907	188	33	.....
1908	241	34	27
Increase	53	1	.....

The quitters were not counted in 1907. We can see from the foregoing that an increase of 53 bulls having harems occurred in 1908 on St. George, while the idle bulls remained practically the same as in the year before.

From the foregoing statistics, we may make a comparison of the number of stationed bulls on both islands in the two years. The term "stationed bulls" includes harem masters and idle bulls, excluding quitters and water bulls: Stationed bulls—1907, 1,404; 1908, 1,427; increase, 23.

This shows that, even with pelagic sealing more active than ever before in the history of the islands, the number of bulls on the rookeries has increased slightly. This has occurred in the face of incessant shotgun firing about one of the islands, concentrated on the rookery front of one of our largest rookeries. This increase, however, has occurred entirely on St. George around which island pelagic sealing has been very slight. I have no doubt that, had St. Paul not suffered in the degree that it has from the killing of its seals in the water,

a substantial increase in the number of bulls on its rookeries would have been noted.

Fine condition of rookery bulls.—The inspection of the rookeries made at the time the harems were counted showed strongly the fact that the stationed rookery bulls were young animals to 95 per cent of their whole number. Many harems were found in charge of 7-year-old bulls so apprehensive of approach by man that they deserted their harems in our presence and fled into the water. Of course, these animals would return on our departure and again resume their places as harem masters. This inspection, however, disclosed the fact that there had been a heavy decrease in bulls during the last migration period, to offset which on St. Paul the incoming of young bulls from the reservations of previous years was insufficient.

It is regretted that, since the inauguration of the practice of reserving bachelors each year to mature as breeding bulls, pelagic sealing has been so active as practically to prevent that increase of male breeders which otherwise would occur. That salutary conditions have resulted from this reservation, none can deny. The checking of the steady diminution of breeding bulls, the elimination of old bulls from the rookeries, and the filling of their places with young vigorous animals, the large increase in the number of half bulls found in the drives of bachelors, and, more than all, the actual increase of the number of breeding bulls on St. George, where the need has been greatest, are sufficient to demonstrate the efficiency and the benefit of these reservations of young males.

The experience of the last two years, however, has made it apparent that the full measure of good from the reservation of young males can not be derived while pelagic sealing is as active as at present. Not only does the reservation of young males add to the catch of the sea hunters, but the normal hauling habits of seals have been disarranged.

Nor in my judgment can this be remedied by the provision of a larger reservation of immune bachelors. The evidence is plain to me that sea killing destroys a large number of these young reserved males, and the increasing of the reservation would increase the pelagic catch and nothing more. But for the presence of the Japanese fleet there would have been this year a decided increase in bulls on St. Paul instead of the slight decrease already mentioned. As this surplus created by the yearly reservation of young males seems to be diverted to the fleet's catch and not to the breeding rookeries, ordinary prudence would dictate that the yearly reservation of bachelors should not be enlarged so long as this fleet remains in the sea.

Counts of pups.—Because of the activity in pelagic sealing already mentioned, the enumeration of black pups on the rookeries, to arrive at an idea of the number of breeding cows, was confined to one rookery on each island—Ketovi on St. Paul and North on St. George. Indeed, it was with hesitation that these counts were authorized, as the counting of these pups necessitates the driving off of all breeding seals into the water where, within plain sight, the pelagic fleet is waiting to slaughter those that make their way through the territory covered by its boats. However, as it was desired specially to secure some basis upon which a correct idea might be formed as to the num-

ber of breeding cows present, this disturbance of the rookeries mentioned was considered justifiable.

On St. Paul the count of Ketovi, including Amphitheater, was made on August 4, 1908, as follows:

Rookery.	Live pups.	Dead pups.
Ketovi	1,628	79
Amphitheater	249	4
Total	1,877	83

On St. George the count of pups on North rookery was made on August 12, 1908, and disclosed the following: Live pups, 3,969; dead pups, 154.

In both counts conditions were most favorable, as the pups had not yet taken to the water. These counts can be considered as nearly accurate as possible.

Contrasting the result obtained in 1908 with that in 1907, when similar counts were made on the same rookeries, we find the following totals:

Year.	Ketovi.	North.
1908	1,930	4,123
1907	1,959	4,185
	[1] 1	[2] 62

[1] Increase. [2] Decrease.

The difference between the counts of pups made in the two years is so slight as to indicate on their face that practically no change in the number of breeding cows has occurred. If these counts were taken as a criterion of the condition of all the rookeries on the two islands, we would have to believe that there has been no decrease in breeding female seals during the past year. This conclusion, however, would be hard to accept.

If the number of breeding seals has not decreased, as these figures would lead one to believe, where, then, could the catches of the pelagic fleets have been obtained? It is known that in 1907 some 17,000 sealskins were marketed by the two fleets—Canadians and Japanese—most of which were those of female seals. This, of course, is in addition to the 15,000 young male skins taken in 1907 on the islands by the lessee. A total of 32,000 skins, therefore, was taken from the herd in 1907, which, in that year, was composed approximately of 175,000 animals, of which only 65,000 were adult and virgin cows.

In addition to this slaughter in 1907, the catch of the pelagic fleets in 1908 has been as heavy as in the preceding year. The Canadian fleet, it is true, contains fewer vessels this year than ever before, 8 in all. As against this, however, we have an increased Japanese fleet, composed approximately of 38 vessels. Those pelagic schooners that have been spoken this year by the patrolling vessels were found to

have been quite successful. The 2 schooners captured last July by the U. S. S. *Bear* had over 700 skins between them.

With all this activity, it is impossible to believe that so many seals could have been taken out of the Pribilof herd—now only a skeleton—without decreasing the size of the herd. With so many agencies consuming the life of the herd, there is only one factor to offset this decrease, namely, the annual increment of virgin cows. If we are to accept the conclusion that no decrease occurred between 1907 and 1908, we must believe that the increment of virgin cows during the period mentioned was as large as the catch of the schooners, added to the land killing, the loss from natural causes, and the waste from seals killed in the water and not recovered. Such a conclusion can not be justified by conditions.

Visually the rookeries showed that a decrease among cows had occurred during the last year. While the change was not readily apparent on the massed portions of the rookeries, the sparse ends either are thinner than before or practically bare of seal life. Tolstoi Cliffs and Zapadni Reef, for example, are virtually eliminated, each containing only a few harems of several cows each. The north end of Lukanin and the south end of Ketovi also show more bare space than before. Lagoon contains fewer cows and fewer harems, while Polavina, from one end of its line of cliffs to the other, shows a decided thinning out among the cows. Little East, on St. George, is almost wiped out, having less than 150 cows last year.

In view of this contraction in the space occupied by the breeding cows, we must disregard the apparent showing of the tables of counts of pups on the two rookeries, and conclude instead that a decrease has occurred in the whole herd, which decrease, however, for some unexplainable reason was not apparent on the two rookeries on which pups were counted this year, but which would have been shown on the other rookeries had our counting been extended to them.

To have disturbed other rookeries by driving off all the breeding seals in an endeavor to find out how many seals were lacking from the count of the previous year would have been decidedly unwise, to say the least. Many of these seals, had they been driven off, would have found their way to the boats of the palegic fleet, stationed as close to the 3-mile limit as possible, and undoubtedly would have been shot. This, in my judgment, would have been too great a price to pay for the mere satisfaction of determining the rate at which the seal herd had diminished, when we already knew that a decrease had occurred. Furthermore, the driving off of these seals would have been in direct line with the tactics of the sealing fleet, which were deliberately to drive off the land as many seals as possible, so that they might be shot in the water. For these reasons, I deemed it advisable to relinquish the attempt to enumerate the breeding seals, and to allow the latter to rest without further disturbance.

Estimate of whole herd in 1908.—In 1907, it was found that the breeding females on St. Paul had decreased 24 per cent and those on St. George 18 per cent, a mean of 21 per cent. This shrinkage had occurred through the combined agencies of pelagic sealing and natural mortality. In 1908 these agencies were as active as they were in 1907, and it is reasonable to believe that the same rate of diminution occurred in the latter year as in 1907. This mortality, however, which we have mentioned, has relation only to the breeding cows

which comprise the larger part of the pelagic catch, and does not refer to the males and nonbreeding seals, which are not affected so heavily by sea killing. However, numbers of these animals are taken in the water, and allowance for the effect of sea killing on them needs to be made. An estimated decrease, therefore, of 15 per cent, which will apply to the whole herd, nonbreeding as well as breeding seals, in my opinion would be a rational estimate of the diminution occurring since 1907.

In 1907 the whole herd was estimated at 172,512. A deduction of 15 per cent from this number would leave 146,636 as the estimated number of animals in the Pribilof herd at the close of the season of 1908.

PELAGIC SEALING.

The entire Japanese fleet of 38 schooners surrounded St. Paul Island during the months of July and August last. While an occasional schooner was sighted from St. George during the summer, in the main this latter island was practically free from the near presence of the fleet.

The first pelagic schooner was sighted from St. Paul June 19, and almost daily thereafter schooners and small boats could be seen from shore until September 8, when the last vessel of the Japanese fleet is supposed to have left for home.

The patrol of the islands this summer furnished by the Government consisted of the four revenue cutters *McCulloch*, *Bear*, *Rush*, and *Perry*, and the gunboat *Yorktown*. The first of the patrolling fleet to arrive was the *Perry* on June 7, followed by the *Rush* and *Bear* on June 11, and on June 15 by the *McCulloch*. The *Yorktown* was reported first about the islands on July 7, on which date she was sighted at anchor at Northeast Point. She left the islands September 4, her period of cruising being completed.

The fleet of revenue cutters cruised continuously about the islands until all sealing in the sea had ceased. The first of the cutters to leave the islands was the *Bear*, on September 3, when she left to attend court at Valdez, and to transport thither as prisoners the crews of the two schooners captured by her at Northeast Point. The remaining cutters patrolled actively until October.

EFFICIENCY OF PATROL.

The patrol was conducted this summer not only with energy but with the exercise of good sense and judgment. One or another of the vessels usually would be anchored at the village, where it could be communicated with hourly, if necessary. Other of the vessels made Northeast Point a base and operated from there. In addition the cutters called regularly at St. George and patrolled about that island. No portion of the area in which any violations of our laws might occur was left open by cutters, but, in fact, was constantly visited and guarded.

In addition to this, the captains of the cutters were kind enough to furnish transportation to the agents, company officials, and natives to and from the islands. On their biweekly journeys to Unalaska for coal, if some of the officers did not come ashore, the cutters would invariably signal their intention to leave, and offer to take mail and

passengers either to the other island or to Unalaska. As a matter of fact, about 20 native men were taken to Unalaska from St. Paul and returned by the cutters, together with 8 men from this island who visited St. George. They brought, also, an entire family from Unalaska to St. Paul, with their household effects. This is in addition to the transportation afforded natives of St. George to Unalaska or St. Paul, and to the Unalaska natives who visited the islands. The cutters also rendered assistance to the poverty-stricken natives of Akutan, distributing clothing sent up by charitable institutions and transporting the natives and their priest to and from Unalaska.

I am indebted also to the captain and engineer officers of the *Bear* for the duplication of certain parts of the engine of our gasoline launch, that had been broken through use, the lack of which would have caused the launch to be useless for a year until new parts could have been received from the factory. I desire to report here my deep appreciation of the help and assistance rendered during the summer by the officers of the cutters.

THE PELAGIC FLEET.

The Japanese pelagic fleet in Bering Sea in 1908 consisted of 38 vessels, as already stated. Eight of these are reported to have engaged in seal hunting during the spring on the British Columbian coast, while the remaining vessels, with the exception of several that remained in the vicinity of the Aleutian chain hunting sea otter as well as seals, came directly into the sea after having followed the Commander Islands herd north along the Asiatic coast.

Of these vessels, 6 are reported to have had white masters or navigators aboard, in addition to a number of white Canadian hunters, who formerly worked on Canadian vessels, but who shipped on Japanese vessels last year because the latter have privileges in taking seals which are denied the Canadians under international agreement. The following white men in the Japanese fleet this year have been reported:

Kinsei Maru. Capt. Richardson, has Bill Williams aboard.

Toro Maru. Capt. Hagaman, a Bonin Island sealer.

Kaiwo Maru. Was seized by the *Perry* in 1907, but released.

Aitoku Maru. Capt. Thompson; arrested by the Russians in 1905.

Matsu Maru. Has Fred Cochrane aboard, a former Canadian sealer.

Toyai Maru. Capt. Harry Jacobsen; from Victoria. Has the following former Canadian sealers aboard: Edward McNeil, Edward Harris, Ned Burke.

Because of the international restrictions running against Canadian vessels under the Paris award, there is a strong desire on the part of he Canadian sealers to operate their vessels under the flag of Japan, which country is not restricted in any way in taking seals save by the operation of our own laws applicable to our territory and the surrounding territorial waters. It is reported that at least one Canadian sealing schooner changed her registry to Japanese last spring, with a strong probability that others will follow her example.

The greatest portion of the Japanese fleet hunted seals in the immediate vicinity of St. Paul Island. On one occasion 29 vessels were seen in one day by a patrolling vessel within sight of St. Paul. Because of the comparatively small number of seals on St. George few schoon-

ers worked in that locality. One or two were sighted almost daily from that island during the latter part of July and early August, but the body of the fleet, as before stated, was off St. Paul.

METHODS OF OPERATION.

The two localities about St. Paul where seals in the water seemed most plentiful were those off Northeast and West Points, respectively. This was due probably to the fact that the tide currents converge at these points, carrying thither the seals that are swimming about the island. The Japanese fleet therefore divided itself naturally into two divisions, one operating off West Point and the other and larger rendezvousing at Northeast Point.

The fleet off West Point was constantly in sight from the village and necessarily in that of the patrolling vessel that made that station her base. Consequently, although in sight of land, these vessels kept well offshore and at no time under my observation did they come within the 3-mile limit or commit any violation of our laws.

The Northeast Point fleet, on the other hand, was the larger and by far the more aggressive. At Northeast Point rookery a shore guard of four native men, with rifles and revolvers and a Hotchkiss cannon, was maintained constantly from the 1st of June until well into October. This guard was changed weekly and was in communication with the village by telephone. Reports were made regularly each morning, and oftener when occasion required. This rookery is 12 miles from the village, on the extreme northeastern end of the island. In addition to being the largest rookery on the island, there is located there a salt house, containing, in the summer time, some thousands of sealskins.

Within a radius of 10 or 15 miles lay the greater portion of the Japanese pelagic fleet. Here, also, during the latter part of the summer, lay one or more vessels of the patrolling fleet, and in the first part of the summer a cutter visited daily. While the cutters were at anchor there or in sight the schooners and small boats kept well offshore, but if for any reason the cutter should be absent, even for a short while, the schooners and their flotilla of small boats would move in close to shore, sometimes within range of the rifles of the shore guard, while the crews of the small boats would shoot at seals in the water. After this policy of aggression was discovered, however, a cutter was stationed constantly at the Point, the presence of which had a restraining effect upon the cupidity of the sealers, although they continued to hunt seals as close to the limit as possible.

During the summer probably 25 rifle shots were fired by the native guard from shore at approaching small boats to warn them away. In addition to this, the Hotchkiss was fired twice on one occasion at a schooner that stood into shore with the presumable purpose of making a landing on the rookery. These shots had the effect of making the approaching boats turn hurriedly and stand offshore.

These instances of aggression occurred while the patrolling vessels were at the village or at other portions of the island. The information when signaled to them had the immediate effect of causing a cutter to steam in haste to Northeast Point, but by the time she arrived there the marauders had retreated outside the 3-mile limit.

EVIDENCE OF CONCERTED ACTION.

The watchmen on guard at Northeast Point reported on half a dozen occasions that they had observed the small boats from the schooners to form a line a mile or so in length and, in that formation, advance abreast on the rookery. When close to shore, the occupants of the boats would begin a fusillade with their shotguns, the noise of which would drive off a number of seals from the rookeries and hauling grounds. The boats would then withdraw to a safe distance from shore and there pursue and seek to capture those seals which had just been driven off the land by them.

On other occasions, when a dozen or more schooners would be near the Point, one of them, anchoring on or close to the 3-mile limit, would display a light at night and presumably act as a lightship, while the others would have their lights extinguished. This action of the schooners in combining their forces is significant. Heretofore, with the exception of the raids in 1906, the schooners and boats have operated individually, covering a wide territory, but with large intervals between the boats. Now, however, when boats from several schooners advance in line a mile or two long, sweeping the water clear of seals as they advance, the destruction caused must be greater and the chance for seals to escape correspondingly less.

Clearly, the danger point, as regards raids and other infractions of our laws by deep-sea sealers, is at Northeast Point, and a revenue cutter or other patrolling vessel should be stationed there at all times during the summer. While these schooners are there in force, the absence of a patrolling vessel is a signal for their entry into forbidden waters to kill seals close to shore. On the other hand, they keep well offshore when a cutter is near.

CAPTURE OF TWO SCHOONERS.

On July 22 the *Bear* made a midnight voyage to Northeast Point from the village, arriving there at 4 a. m. The morning was foggy, but rifts in the fog allowed inspection of the sea at intervals. At the time of her arrival at the Point shotgun firing from small boats was so incessant as to sound like a battle being fought just offshore. The *Bear* found several schooners and a number of small boats all inside the limit shooting seals. She was able to capture two of the schooners, the *Saikai Maru* and the *Kinsei Maru*, both of which were towed to the village whence, the following day, they were towed by the *Rush* to Unalaska. Later the *Bear* took the crews of both schooners to Unga for commitment proceedings before a United States commissioner, and on September 3 left Bering Sea to again transport these prisoners from Unga to Valdez for trial.

The *Saikai Maru* is the schooner that is reported to have raided the Pribilofs last year, obtaining 62 skins, although nothing is known of such a raid if committed. This year several boats from this vessel were seen to land on Walrus Island, almost immediately after she had arrived in the sea. The *Kinsei Maru*, Capt. Richardson, probably has been more aggressive in approaching shore this summer than any other vessel in the fleet, and her master has been known to express contempt for the shore guard as well as for the cutter patrol. It is believed that no vessels in the fleet deserved capture more than the

two taken by the *Bear*, and that their apprehension had a restraining effect upon the remainder of the fleet.

The *McCulloch*, at nearly the same time, also detained a number of small boats in a dense fog off West Point. When, however, the fog lifted, it was found that the position in which the boats were taken was just outside the 3-mile limit, and the boats, therefore, were released.

THE CANADIAN FLEET.

The Canadian fleet in 1908 was composed of only eight vessels. How many of these entered Bering Sea is not known. So far as my knowledge goes, none of the Canadian schooners were seen by patrolling vessels. It is certain that the weather in Bering Sea after August 25 was so boisterous as to prevent large catches by any pelagic schooners. As the Canadians began killing on August 1, they had only a short time in which to take seals in Bering Sea.

SCHOONERS' PLAN OF OPERATION.

After a careful study of the situation as regards the location, distribution, and methods of operation of the pelagic fleets, I believe that it may be stated as follows:

First. That the entire Japanese fleet in Bering Sea lies off St. Paul Island during the summer, without disturbing St. George Island in any appreciable degree.

Second. That this fleet is divided into two divisions, one of which has its rendezvous off West Point, the other and larger off Northeast Point.

Third. Any or all of these vessels have no apparent scruples about approaching shore inside the 3-mile limit, provided no patrolling vessels are present.

Fourth. That on the approach of a patrolling vessel the schooners retire to a safe distance from shore, on her departure they work in again to the land.

Fifth. That the small boats from these vessels by combining and forming a line at Northeast Point approach close to shore and frighten seals off the rookeries by shotgun firing, then kill those seals which they have caused to leave the shore.

Sixth. That the Canadian fleet is now so small as to be no longer a factor of importance in the killing of seals.

To meet these conditions the vessels on patrol about the islands should be stationed (a) at the village, from which point they can oversee that division of the pelagic fleet off West Point and where they can be communicated with from shore; and (b) at Northeast Point, where the larger portion of the fleet gathers and where the presence of a patrolling vessel is necessary to curb the propensity of the sealers to close in on the shore. Such an arrangement was adopted during the latter portion of the last summer, and, in my opinion, should be adhered to next season.

CONTINUOUS STEAMING UNNECESSARY.

The foregoing dispositions would furnish the best protection to the Government's interests on the islands that could be secured. Continuous steaming about the islands is unnecessary, and invites inva-

sion of our territorial waters. Should a cutter, for instance, make a circuit of St. Paul daily, this fact would become known at once to the sea hunters, and they at once would arrange their plans to approach the shore closely when the cutter would be at a distant point and to draw out again on her approach. This has occurred repeatedly in my observation during the last two years and is well known to the native guards. Furthermore, a cutter under way steaming about the islands some miles off shore can not be communicated with by signals or otherwise for hours or even days, and it usually occurs when the cutters are thus cruising, that the guards begin telephoning to the village that boats or schooners are approaching.

There is no remedy for this except the one already suggested, namely, of having the cutters station themselves at anchor at the points named, where their continued presence would deter boats from coming in close, or cause the capture of these boats if they would so approach.

PRESENT LAW SHOULD BE CHANGED.

I urgently recommend that if possible an act be passed by the Congress making it as much of a misdemeanor for sealing boats to be found inside our 3-mile limit, having aboard the paraphernalia for killing seals, as it is for their actually killing them there.

As the matter now stands, small boats from sealing schooners are not liable to seizure when found inside our 3-mile limit unless they actually are detected in the act of killing seals there or have on board the carcasses or skins of seals killed. This procedure is the result of a ruling of Capt. Munger, the fleet captain, and is substantiated, I understand, by an opinion of the Attorney General, in which it was held that the waters covered by our territorial 3-mile limit are open to navigation by vessels of friendly nations, and that the mere presence therein of vessels or boats, even with all the implements for taking seals on board is not an incriminating act sufficient to convince an impartial jury that an offense has been committed or attempted.

This has proved a great handicap to the officers of the patrolling fleet. If, for example, a schooner or small boat is found within the 3-mile limit about the islands, without seals or sealskins therein, it must be released on the plea of the occupants that they were unaware of their position, or were making a passage, or what not, when, as a matter of fact, these same boats had been hunting seals in prohibited waters, but, on the approach of the cutter, probably had heaved overboard what skins it had captured just before it was apprehended.

This condition can be relieved by the passage of a law such as has been mentioned, which action, as well as a general readjustment of the laws relating to the protection of seals, I urgently recommend.

SHORE GUARD OF MARINES UNNECESSARY.

I understand that, as the result of the summer's patrolling, it will be the purpose of at least one captain to recommend the stationing on the islands of a regular marine guard during the entire season. Such action, however, would be unnecessary and useless, provided the cutters on patrol would station themselves at the points already mentioned, and would anchor there. If such disposition of patrolling

vessels be made—such, in fact, as was made during the latter half of this summer—there would be no need of the presence of a marine guard on shore, or, in fact, of any guard beyond the usual watchmen required to report conditions. A guard would be unnecessary for the very obvious reason that, with a cutter or other guard vessel stationed at each of the places mentioned, in plain sight at all times of the schooners, none of the latter would send their crews inshore, or even allow them to come within 3 miles of the island. Such being the case, a shore guard would be useless.

Besides being unnecessary, the question of a guard of marines or sailors on shore would present other points of difficulty. Guards of sailors have been stationed on the islands in former times. These guards were quartered in the village. The rookeries in any danger from raids are from 6 to 12 miles from the village. Because of this distance, and notwithstanding the presence of the sailors, natives had to be stationed on the rookeries just as though no guard were on the island. Should a rookery be threatened, the natives there would have to return to the village to report and the marine guard then proceed to the seat of disturbance. This procedure would consume from 4 to 8 hours, according to the distances to be traversed, and, in that time, the rookery could be raided and the raiders make away with as many skins as they could carry. I can not see that this arrangement contributed in any marked degree toward additional safety of the rookeries, nor would it, in my opinion, if again adopted.

If a marine guard were stationed on the islands, with headquarters on the rookeries and not in the village, it would result in my judgment in so disturbing the seals as to prevent those rookeries on which the guard is stationed from affording the usual number of bachelors from which the catch of skins is secured. As these bachelors are wary and elusive, it requires caution on the part of those perfectly familiar with seal life and the arrangement of a rookery to visit it without driving off the bachelors that may have hauled there. If the rookery were to be visited daily by strangers unacquainted with seals and their habits, and having no interest in securing the catch, it is more than probable that bachelors constantly would be driven off these hauling grounds, and the catch materially interfered with.

The natives take pride in performing watch duty during the summer, and have shown that they are competent to maintain an effective and dependable guard. With an active patrol by Government vessels such as was maintained in 1908, there will be no occasion for the stationing of an additional guard on the islands, and I recommend strongly that any proposition to this effect be not entertained.

CATCH OF BLUE FOXES.

During the winter of 1907–8, the take of blue foxes on St. George Island aggregated 438 blue and 8 white fox skins, in addition to 2 small blue skins taken for museum purposes and shipped by the lessee to the museum of the Brooklyn Institute. On being delivered to the North American Commercial Co., under its contract for that privilege, the lessee paid to the natives for these skins $2,208, at the rate of $5 for each blue skin and $1 for each white skin delivered and accepted.

On my visit to St. George Island, June 26 last, I was informed by Agent Clark that 1,005 blue foxes and 8 whites passed through the traps during the winter, of which 446 were killed or were found dead afterwards on the beaches. Of these, all the white skins and 438 of the blues were accepted and paid for by the lessee, as already mentioned, while the remainder either were mangy or otherwise unfit for the market. During the winter, 267 male and 272 female blue foxes, all prime animals, were released for breeding purposes.

On St. Paul foxes were not trapped or killed during the winter. It is certain, however, that the number of foxes on this island is increasing slowly, as more are seen each year than in the one before. Not enough of them are present, however, to justify trapping.

CENSUS OF NATIVE INHABITANTS.

St. Paul Island, on June 30, 1908, had 177 native residents, composed of 93 males and 84 females. During the year ended on the date mentioned, 8 births and 6 deaths occurred, with a net increase in the population of 7, of which 5 were through accessions from other localities.

On St. George, the census taken on June 30, 1908, showed 88 native residents—45 female and 43 male—a decrease of 5 from the preceding annual census. During the year 2 births and 6 deaths occurred, while 1 of the St. George people removed to St. Paul.

The total native population of the two islands on June 30, 1908, was 265, of which 136 were males and 129 females, a net increase of 2 over the preceding census.

EARNINGS OF NATIVES.

On St. Paul, during the sealing season ended June 30, 1908, $9,351 was earned from the taking of 12,468 sealskins at 75 cents each, which sum was divided among 46 native sealers. On. St George, the $2,208 earned from taking foxes, already mentioned, and $1,871.25 from taking 2,495 seal skins, were divided among 25 native men, all to be disbursed for the maintenance of the native inhabitants not charges on the lessee.

APPORTIONMENT OF APPROPRIATION.

The appropriation by Congress of $19,500 for natives' support during the year ending June 30, 1909, was apportioned as follows:

St. Paul	$9,460
St. George	4,340
Coal, both islands	5,700
Total	19,500

I desire to report that the lessee of the sealing concession performed faithfully all the obligations of its contract with the Government, in relation both to the interests of the Government and the native inhabitants.

Very respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

To Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1908.

Date.	Rookery.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.						Number of seals killed by lessees for skins.						Aggregates.		
		Large young seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Skins rejected.			Accepted.		Rejected.			Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
					Undersize.	Bitten.	Cut.	Prime.	Second class.	Undersize.	Cut.	For other reasons.				
1907.																
Aug. 1	Over and under sized skins on hand [1]									12		[2] 3	15		15	15
1	Prime skins on hand							1					1	1		1
10	Reef	156	156	154		1	1							154	2	156
14	Food skins to date (Watch)	19	19	19										19		19
Oct. 21	Middle Hill	150	150	150										150		150
31	Reef	92	92	90	1		1							90	2	92
Nov. 19	Northeast Point	250	250	249	1									249	1	250
23	Reef	122	122	121	1									121	1	122
Dec. 16	Sea Lion Rock	246	246	241	4	[3] 1								241	5	246
1908.																
May 27	....do	141	141	138	1	[3] 2								138	3	141
June 27	Northeast Point							233			2	[4] 1	236	233	3	236
29	Reef							557	14	9		[4] 3	583	557	26	583
30	Tolstoi							204					204	204		204
July 1	Zapadni							252				[3] 1	253	252	1	253
3	Northeast Point							455		1		[4] 2	458	455	3	458
3	Halfway Point							108					108	108		108
6	Zapadni							182					182	182		182
7	Reef and Gorbatch							1,029		2			1,031	1,029	2	1,031
7	Tolstoi							148					148	148		148
9	Northeast Point							489			1	[3] 1	491	489	2	491
9	Halfway Point							33					33	33		33
11	Zapadni							323			3		326	323	3	326
13	Reef							569			5		574	569	5	574
15	Northeast Point							784			2	[4] 1	787	784	3	787
15	Halfway Point							30					30	30		30
16	Zapadni							279			1		280	279	1	280
17	Reef and Gorbatch							1,454			2	[4] 2	1,458	1,454	4	1,458
17	Tolstoi							201					201	201		201
21	Northeast Point							448					448	448		448
21	Halfway Point							69			2		71	69	2	71
22	Zapadni							411			5	[4] 1	417	411	6	417
23	Reef and Gorbatch							1,047		5	15	[4] 3	1,070	1,047	23	1,070
23	Tolstoi							40			2		42	40	2	42
26	Northeast Point							348					348	348		348

26	Halfway Point							19					19	19		19
27	Reef and Gorbatch							548		9		[4] 5	562	548	14	562
27	Tolstoi							41					41	41		41
28	Zapadni							240				[4] 1	241	240	1	241
31	Reef and Gorbatch							630			3		633	630	3	633
31	Tolstoi							33					33	33		33
	Total	1,176	1,176	1,162	8	4	2	11,205	14	38	43	24	11,324	12,367	133	12,500

[1] Delivery authorized by department letter Apr. 27, 1908. [2] Oversize. [3] Large. [4] Bitten.

EXHIBIT 2.

Statistics of killings, 1908.

Date.	Rookery.	Seals killed.	Dismissed.				Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Branded.		Not branded.			
			2 years.	3 years.	Small.	Large.		
1908.								
June 27	Northeast Point	236	.....	.....	6	64	306	[1] 77
29	Reef	583	140	138	32	213	1,106	52
30	Tolstoi	204	29	19	19	108	379	53
July 1	Zapadni	253	54	38	23	67	435	58
3	Northeast Point	458	86	98	34	76	752	61
3	Halfway point	108	4	11	11	81	215	50
6	Zapadni	182	10	4	10	14	220	82
7	Reef and Gorbatch	1,031	51	64	113	104	1,363	75
7	Tolstoi	148	5	7	7	31	198	78
9	Northeast Point	491	20	12	34	40	597	82
9	Halfway Point	33	1	3	.....	15	52	63
11	Zapadni	326	28	8	46	10	418	77
13	Reef	574	95	24	152	25	870	65
15	Northeast Point	787	40	19	107	21	974	80
15	Halfway Point	30	3	2	2	3	40	75
16	Zapadni	280	38	12	28	15	373	75
17	Reef and Gorbatch	1,458	153	71	328	71	2,081	70
17	Tolstoi	201	17	12	32	27	289	69
21	Northeast Point	448	55	65	29	57	654	68
21	Halfway Point	71	4	12	5	19	111	63
22	Zapadni	417	47	26	77	23	590	70
23	Reef and Gorbatch	1,070	81	151	251	100	1,653	64
23	Tolstoi	42	2	20	.....	35	99	42
26	Northeast Point	348	28	19	57	20	472	73
26	Halfway Point	19	1	4	2	9	35	54
27	Reef and Gorbatch	562	115	61	144	99	981	57
27	Tolstoi	41	9	18	3	26	97	42
28	Zapadni	241	30	16	63	36	386	62
31	Reef and Gorbatch	633	91	41	453	106	1,324	47
31	Tolstoi	33	6	6	23	11	79	41
	Total	11,308	1,243	981	2,091	1,526	17,149	65

[1] What remained of a drive for branding.

EXHIBIT 3.

Count of harems and bulls, St. Paul Island, 1908.

Rookery.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Water bulls.
Ardiguen	8	1	.....	.....
Reef	200	20	10	5
Ketovi	42	5	2	17
Amphitheater	6	2	2	.....
Lukanin	44	1	3	2
Tolstoi	88	6	2	10
Tolstoi Cliffs	20	.....	2	.....
Lagoon	13	1	1	.....
Northeast Point	237	27	17	13
Little Polavina	16	2	2	3
Polavina Cliffs	24	.....	.....	.....
Polavina	36	3	1	4
Zapadni	148	12	3	.....
Little Zapadni	64	4	.....	4
Zapadni Reef	10	.....	1	2
Gorbatch	103	6	1	8
Gorbatch Cliffs	3	.....	1	.....
Total, 1908	1,062	90	48	68
Total, 1907	1,122	61	74	100
	[1] 60	[2] 29	[1] 26	[1] 32

[1] Decrease. [2] Increase.

EXHIBIT 4.

Classification of large rejects, 1908.

Date.	Rookery.	4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	7 years.
June 27	Northeast Point	22	10	16	16
29	Reef	30	83	71	29
30	Tolstoi	19	35	34	20
July 1	Zapadni	18	18	13	18
3	Northeast Point	18	26	21	11
3	Halfway Point	7	41	25	8
6	Zapadni	6	5	.....	3
7	Reef and Gorbatch	59	35	7	3
7	Tolstoi	6	14	8	3
9	Northeast Point	19	5	13	3
9	Halfway Point	.....	9	4	2
11	Zapadni	7	.....	1	2
13	Reef	15	4	3	3
15	Northeast Point	10	7	2	2
15	Halfway Point	.....	1	2	.....
16	Zapadni	6	5	4	.....
17	Reef and Gorbatch	21	24	11	15
17	Tolstoi	10	9	4	4
21	Northeast Point	2	19	23	15
21	Halfway Point	2	5	4	8
22	Zapadni	7	11	5	.....
23	Reef and Gorbatch	41	25	23	11
23	Tolstoi	5	14	7	9
26	Northeast Point	11	3	5	1
26	Halfway Point	.....	.....	8	1
27	Tolstoi	6	6	13	1
27	Reef and Gorbatch	4	25	57	13
28	Zapadni	5	11	16	4
31	Reef and Gorbatch	16	45	26	19
31	Tolstoi	.....	7	4	.....
	Total	375 372	515 502	441 430	233 224

EXHIBIT 5.

Weights of sealskins, St. Paul Island, 1908 (Aug. 10, 1907, to July 31, 1908).

Weights.	Number.	Weights.	Number.
4	5	6¾	1,079
4¼	17	7	1,089
4½	13	7¼	801
4¾	3	7½	894
5	541	7¾	489
5¼	524	8	451
5½	951	8¼	313
5¾	1,109	8½	249
6	1,276	9¾	3
6¼	1,051	10½	1
6½	1,577	11	1

EXHIBIT 6.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
BERING SEA, ALASKA, *August 14, 1908.*

This is to certify that 12,468 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Grace Dollar*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.
JOHN S. HAGEN,
Master Steamer "Grace Dollar."

EXHIBIT 7.

Division of natives' earnings, St. Paul Island, Alaska, season of 1908.

By 12,468 sealskins, at 75 cents		$9,351
To 23 first-class shares, at $250	$5,750	
To 8 second-class shares, at $200	1,600	
To 9 third-class shares, at $150	1,350	
To 4 fourth-class shares, at $100.25	401	
To 8 special shares	250	
Total		9,351

First-class shares, 23 men, at $250 each.

Alex. Melovidoff.
Karp Buterin.
Jacob Kochutin.
Nicoli Krukoff.
Simeon Melovidoff.
Simeon Nozekoff.
Theo. Sedick.
Dorofay Stepetin.
John John Stepetin.
A. Bourdukofsky.
N. Bogadanoff.
Nicoli Gromoff.
George Kotchergin.
John Kochutin.
Alex. Merculieff.
Parfiri Pankoff.
Elary Stepetin.
Noon Tetoff.
J. E. Orloff.
John Krukoff.
George Shisenikoff.
Peter Tetoff.
Necon Shabolin.

Second-class shares, 8 men, at $200 each.

P. Bourdukofsky.
Michael Kushin.
Innokenty Sedick.
Zahar Tetoff.
Michael Kozloff.
Metrofan Krukoff.
John Merculieff.
Trefan Kochutin.

Third-class shares, 9 men, at $150 each.

Alex. Galaktioneff.
Constantine Buterin.
Vlass Pankoff.
Paul Koshevnikoff.
Stepan Rookavishnikoff.
Nekita Hopoff.
Nicoli Kozloff.
Theo. Kochutin.
John Fratis.

Fourth-class shares, 4 men, at $100.25 each.

Ivanally Kozeroff.
John Mazeekin.
Condrat Krukoff.
Paul Merculieff.

Special class, 8 men.

Alex. Merculieff, first chief, $50.
J. Kochutin, shopkeeper, $15.
N. Tetoff, boatkeeper, $15.
Peter Oustigoff, $50.
John Stepetin, gunner, $10.
John Stepetin, second chief, $50.
G. Shisenikoff, assistant shopkeeper, $5.
S. Nozekoff, librarian, $5.
Innokenty Mandregan, $50.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 8, 1908.*

I hereby certify that the foregoing division was made by me, in the manner detailed, after conference with the native chiefs on this island.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 8, 1908.*

I hereby certify that the amounts, as before stated, representing the division of natives' earnings on St. Paul Island for the season of 1908 will be placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By J. C. REDPATH, *Superintendent.*

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 8, 1908.*

We hereby approve the foregoing division of natives' earnings for St. Paul Island for the season of 1908, for and on behalf of the natives of that island.

ALEX. MERCULIEF,
First Chief.
JOHN STEPETIN,
Second Chief.

EXHIBIT 8.

Census of native inhabitants, St. Paul Island, Alaska, year ended June 30, 1908.

	Age.		Age.
Bogadanoff, Nicoli, husband	36	Kochutin, Theodore, husband	20
Bogadanoff, Uleta, wife	41	Kochutin, Mary, wife	22
Bogadanoff, Agrafina, niece	11	Kochutin, Karp, son	3
Bourdukofsky, Apollon, father	55	Kochutin, Trefan, husband	23
Bourdukofsky, Peter, son	29	Kochutin, Natalia, wife	28
Buterin, Karp, husband	54	Kochutin, Larion, adopted son	15
Buterin, Parascovia, wife	52	Hopoff, Nekita, husband	20
Mazeekin, Wassalisia, adopted daughter	13	Hopoff, Parascovia, wife	19
Buterin, Constantine, son	22	Hopoff, John, son	Infant.
Buterin, Marina, wife	18	Kochergin, George, husband	30
Fratis, John, husband	22	Kochergin, Agafia, wife	28
Fratis, Sandulia, wife	18	Tetoff, Peter, adopted son	6
Fratis, Gavriel, son	2	Koxloff, Michael, husband	22
Fratis, Christopher, son	Infant.	Koxloff, Akalina, wife	18
Galaktioneff, Alexander, husband	36	Kozloff, Nicoli, husband	20
Galaktioneff, Lukeria, wife	31	Kozloff, Alexandria, wife	27
Galaktioneff, Mary, daughter	6	Melovidov, Alexandria, niece	6
Galaktioneff, Matrona, daughter	5	Koshevnikoff, Paul, husband	24
Galaktioneff, Aggie, son	2	Koshevnikoff, Mary, wife	34
Hansen, Anna, stepdaughter	8	Krukoff, John, husband	28
Gromoff, Nicoli, husband	40	Krukoff, Uleta, wife	24
Gromoff, Oulianna, wife	38	Krukoff, Alexandra, daughter	2
Stepetin, Pavla, adopted daughter	16	Krukoff, Condrat, brother	18
Stepetin, Elary, jr., adopted son	7	Diakanoff, Andrew, stepson	14
Volkoff, Tecan, orphan	15	Krukoff, Metrofan, husband	25
Krukoff, Mary, orphan	11	Krukoff, Pelagia, wife	20
Kochutin, Jacob, husband	56	Philamonoff, Feokla, sister-in-law	13
Kochutin, Alexandria, wife	46	Krukoff, Nicoli, husband	57
Mandregan, Innokenty, orphan	17	Krukoff, Katherine, wife	50
Mandregan, Nekifer, orphan	12	Krukoff, Eustinia, daughter	18
Kochutin, John, husband	37	Emanof, Alexia, nephew	9
Kochutin, Claudia, wife	28	Tetoff, Agrafina, adopted daughter	6
Kochutin, Nikanor, son	7	Kushin, Michael, husband	24
Kochutin, Erena, daughter	5	Kushin, Matrona, wife	18
Kochutin, Nicoli, son	1	Kushin, Yamali, son	1
Vickalof, Alexander, stepson	10	Mazeekin, John, husband	19
		Mazeekin, Natalia, wife	22

Census of native inhabitants, St. Paul Island, Alaska, year ended June 30, 1908—Con.

	Age.
Melovidov, Alexander, husband	33
Melovidov, Salome, wife	32
Melovidov, Antone, son	14
Melovidov, Alfai, son	5
Melovidov, Joseph, son	1
Melovidov, Simeon, husband	40
Melovidov, Alexandra, wife	40
Melovidov, Margaret, daughter	16
Melovidov, Christopher, son	14
Melovidov, Alexander, son	12
Melovidov, Simeon, jr., son	9
Merculief, Alexander, husband	33
Merculief, Agafia, wife	30
Merculief, Auxenia, daughter	12
Merculief, Terenty, son	5
Merculief, Dosofai, son	3
Merculief, Paul, brother	18
Merculief, John, husband	22
Merculief, Avdotia, wife	33
Merculief, Serefima, daughter	4
Merculief, Leonti, son	1
Nozekof, Simeon, husband	31
Nozekof, Avdotia, wife	33
Nozekof, Mary, daughter	10
Tetoff, John, adopted son	4
Kozerof, Ivanally, half brother	20
Kozerof, Alexandria, half sister	15
Orlof, J. E. (Rev.), father	50
Orlof, Olga, daughter	18
Orlof, Nadia, daughter	16
Orlof, Nicoli, son	14
Orlof, Alexandria, daughter	11
Pankof, Parfiri, husband	45
Pankof, Varvara, wife	29
Pankof, Martha, daughter	10
Pankof, Vlass, husband	20
Pankof, Agrafina, wife	20
Rookavishnikof, Stepan, husband	27
Rookavishnikof, Elizabeth, wife	21
Rookavishnikof, Andrew, son	3
Rookavishnikof, Karathenia, daughter	1
Sedick, Theodore, father	60
Sedick, Innokenty, son	23
Sedick, John, son	11
Shabolin, Necon, husband	41
Shabolin, Feokla, wife	38
Shabolin, Varvara, daughter	10
Shabolin, Matrona, daughter	8
Shabolin, Daniel, son	5
Shisenikof, George, husband	26
Shisenikof, Evdotia, wife	17
Shisenikof, Sergius, son	3
Stepetin, Dorofai, husband	37
Stepetin, Luboff, wife	32
Stepetin, Auxenia, daughter	9
Stepetin, Helena, daughter	3
Stepetin, Auxenty, son	Infant.
Stepetin, Vassili, son	15
Stepetin, Elary, husband	44
Stepetin, Anna, wife	37
Stepetin, Agnes, daughter	12
Stepetin, Nicoli, son	5
Stepetin, Mark, son	2
Stepetin, John, husband	28
Stepetin, Vera, wife	28
Stepetin, Marina, daughter	10
Stepetin, Vassili, son	7
Stepetin, Larion, son	3
Stepetin, Olga, daughter	2
Tetof, Neon, husband	38
Tetof, Agrafina, wife	33
Tetof, Mary, daughter	12
Tetof, Dimitri, son	10
Tetof, Irena, daughter	8
Tetof, Anna, daughter	1
Tetof, Peter, husband	43
Tetof, Mary, wife	47
Tetof, Varvara, adopted daughter	12
Stepetin, Chionia, adopted daughter	13
Tetof, Zahar, husband	29
Tetof, Daria, wife	28
Tetof, Paul, son	3
Tetof, Benedic, son	1

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

Balakshin, Matrona, widow	58
Shaposhnikof, Parascovia, spinster	41
Emenof, Mary, widow	30
Emenof, Eneka, son	7
Emenof, Peter, son	5
Emenof, Mammoth, son	2
Fratis, Akalina, widow	34
Fratis, Agrafina, daughter	17
Fratis, Simeon, son	14
Fratis, Oulianna, daughter	12
Fratis, Martha, daughter	9
Kochutin, Zenobia, mother	40
Kochutin, Innokenty, son	5
Kozlof, Parascovia, widow	49
Serebrinikof, Ripsimia, niece	15
Kushin, Mary, widow	53
Kushin, Nestor, grandson	15
Hansen, John, grandson	12
Peeshnikof, Wassalisa, widow	48
Nedarazof, Catherine, widow	50

RECAPITULATION.

Number of males	93
Number of females	84
Total of residents	177
Total native population, June 30, 1907	170
Arrivals during the year ended June 30, 1908	5
Births during year ended June 30, 1908	8
	183
Deaths during year ended June 30, 1908	6
Total native population, June 30, 1908	177

EXHIBIT 9.

Daily record of events, St. Paul Island, season of 1908.

[Until otherwise indicated, the following notes are by Walter I. Lembkey.]

June 12, 1908.—Wind northeast, thick fog. Strong breeze.

At about 8 a. m. a boat from the *Rush* brought ashore Mr. Lembkey's baggage. Owing to a misunderstanding as to the course to be steered from the cutter to the landing, the boat, which left the ship at 5.30, rowed all around English Bay before finally reaching the west landing at about 8 a. m. They were given breakfast by Mr. Redpath, after which they returned to the cutter. All 3 cutters left the anchorage in the morning, the *Perry* to return to Unalaska to coal.

One of the cutters began whistling in the fog at about 7 a. m., and, believing that it was the company's ship trying to reach the anchorage, one of our Hotchkiss was taken up to the flagstaff and fired several times as a signal, in accordance with long-established custom. It was later ascertained that the *Rush* was whistling to guide its boat, which had gotten astray in the fog.

In the afternoon Capt. Bertholf and Lieut. Hinckley of the *Bear* came ashore and paid a visit to the Government and company houses. On his visit to the Government house, the captain inquired particularly as to the cause of the firing on the hill this morning, and stated that he was at a loss to know whether or not it was the result of a raid on the island. The matter was explained as outlined above.

June 13, 1908.—Wind northeast; moderately strong breeze. Thick fog. The *Bear* remained at anchor on the west side all day. In the afternoon the whistle of a vessel blowing fog signals was heard, presumably to the southwest, faintly audible.

In the afternoon, also, Mr. Judge and I went to Gorbatch and counted the bulls there, as well as examining them for age, and as to whether any bulls were present on stations occupied by them the year previous. We found on Gorbatch Cliffs, 1 bull stationed and 2 quitters; Gorbatch, 68 bulls and 14 quitters; and on Ardiguen, 6 bulls. The bulls were all young, magnificent animals, with the exception of several on Gorbatch that were middle-aged, but the latter were fat, vigorous, and aggressive. Two bulls, branded in 1904 on the head with irons, were found stationed on Gorbatch and holding their positions tenaciously. One bull was covered with fresh wounds,

while another to the rear of the one injured had his nose slit and his muzzle torn. One bull at the extreme west end of the cinder slope was recognized as having occupied that station last year. He was easily recognized because of his extreme viciousness and his position on the jutting end of a rock that overhung the rocky beach. His teeth are yellow and partially broken, but he is fat, active, and full of fight, driving us back up the slope, as was his custom last year. Another very troublesome middle-aged bull fronting the cinder slope last year, which persistently charged an observer, is not present this year so far.

Ardiguen had 6 bulls. The greater portion of the rookery surface adjoining the water line is covered with drifts of snow that has not yet melted, and on this several of the bulls are stationed. It apparently interferes with the hauling back of several of the bulls that are squatting in the sea wash.

On Reef there are about 400 bachelors on the hauling ground, the greater number of which being 4 and 5 year olds. It is hoped that a drive for branding can be made soon from that rookery.

The number of bulls present on the several rookeries gone over this afternoon indicates that the numbers of last year will be reached if not exceeded.

July 14, 1908.—Wind southeast, light breeze; weather, thick fog. Surf breaking on east side.

Both cutters *Rush* and *Bear* were at anchor a part of the day on the west side, but fog prevented observing whether they remained there until evening.

In the afternoon Mr. Judge and I walked to Ketovi. That rookery has 29 bulls and 13 quitters. The entire east front of the rookery is bare of seals, whereas last year there were several young bulls stationed on the point and westward toward Black Bluffs. As a contrast to this, however, I found at No. 10 a mass of 6 young bulls hauled back on the lava shelf that for years past has been bare of seal life. The presence of young bulls is marked, as evidenced by the number of quitters as well as by the number of young bulls that held stations. This is certainly encouraging, as it shows that beneficial results have been gained from the saving of bachelors in the last four years and justifies the wisdom of the regulations that require that action.

The presence of several old friends among the bulls was noted. The branded bull at No. 8, Ketovi, is in the place he has occupied since 1906, when he appeared as a hesitating quitter. He is not a quitter now, however, and roars lustily when one goes near him, although he is not aggressive to the point of charging. He is now 9 years old, and there is little about his appearance that would indicate that he was passing through the period of his youth, except his teeth, which are yellow and partially broken down. His right lower canine is broken off short, while the other is not pointed as acutely as it should be. His whiskers, however, are short and do not indicate age. This case is interesting in that it offers means of comparison whereby the ages of other bulls might be computed.

On the typical harem space there was last year a bull with one eye, or rather a blind eye, showing a cataract or white cast. We called him for purposes of identification "One-eyed Riley." Riley is present this year in the same space, lying about 5 yards from

the place that marked last year the center of his harem. He is pugnacious and aggressive, and evidently regrets that he can not climb the bluff to drive us away.

The old yellow bull at the north end of Amphitheater is present, and roars, but is not vicious. He has been in this position with the intermission of a year or two since 1902 or thereabouts. He is toothless, and that, coupled with the high yellow cast of his hide, makes him conspicuous. His neighbor, however, the toothless bull that for several years occupied the gully on the south end of the theater, has not made an appearance thus far. The Amphitheater has 4 bulls and 2 quitters.

Lukanin has 32 bulls, 3 quitters, and 1 cow, the latter being the first observed this season. She has no pup, but has been out of the water at least 36 hours, as her coat is dry and turning brown. This rookery presents a very promising appearance as regards bulls, as the young 7-year-olds are hauled among the rocks at the high south end, well toward the crest of the elevation. In contrast to this, however, the rocky beach under the low bluffs along the rookery is bare of bulls with the exception of a 6-year-old that has taken a temporary station under the most northerly bluff.

The arrival en masse of a considerable number of young bulls upon a depleted rookery contains features of interest and can be observed this year. The gregarious instincts of the seal are prominent. Large spaces of vacant rookery present themselves to the new arrivals as apparently desirable places to occupy and form a harem. The bowlder-strewn beaches unoccupied last year are admirably fitted for rookery purposes, but these without exception are avoided, and the young bulls take stations back of or adjacent to the most thickly settled portions of the rookery, where competition necessarily must be keenest and where they can not hope to prevail over the older and stronger bulls in the struggle for females. There they will stay until they have been driven off in bloody encounters or finally shift their positions as the breeding season wanes.

On Ketovi rookery the young bulls are massed in the rear of the space that contained last the fullest harems. On Lukanin the new arrivals are likewise gathered back of the space where cows were so thick that harem lines were obliterated and cows and bulls together formed one great family. What unerring instinct guides these young bulls in entering a harem for the first year of their breeding service to haul up at the very place that cows are the most plentiful at a time when there are no cows on shore and nothing to indicate that when they do arrive they will haul there in numbers? Unlike the old bulls, they are not drawn to the place by the fact of their having occupied it the previous year, as the previous year they were not stationed, but oscillated between the hauling grounds and the rookery water fronts. It would seem that when the time arrives for them to take up stations on a rookery as breeders they turn naturally to the place where when the season opens the cows will be thickest and from which place the rookery expands.

June 15, 1908.—Wind northeast, fresh breeze; weather, rain in forenoon, then thick fog. *Rush* and *Bear* at anchor until 11 a. m., when *Rush* left. *Bear* steamed out in afternoon. The *McCulloch* anchored at west side about 2 p. m. She signaled about 3 p. m., but fog too thick to distinguish signals. I then went out in steam

launch, trying to find her, but she could not be located in the fog. The company's steamer *Grace Dollar* anchored about 2 p. m., and unloading began at once, continuing until 9 p. m.

Mr. Judge and I, in company with Messrs. Hinckley and Ward, and Dr. Hurley, of the *Bear*, went to Tolstoi this morning, we to count Tolstoi and they to locate surveyor's old marks with a view of running lines to be used in making soundings about Reef.

The count of bulls was as follows:

Lagoon has 10 bulls and 2 quitters, the same as at this date last year.

Tolstoi has 78 bulls and 3 cows. Last year at this date she had 78 bulls and 1 quitter. The bulls on this rookery seem to have hauled farther back and to the eye would seem to have increased in numbers.

Tolstoi Cliffs has 17 bulls and 2 quitters, a decrease of 6 from this date last year. On Tolstoi hauling ground there were about 100 bachelors, among which were 12 full-grown bulls.

June 16, 1908.—Wind northeast, light breeze; weather fair.

Capts. Munger, De Otte, and Daniels came ashore for a visit. The *Rush* and *McCulloch* at anchor all day. The company's vessel discharging cargo all day, and everyone attending to correspondence to go below.

June 17, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze; weather clear.

The *Rush* left for Unalaska with Capt. Munger, fleet captain. The *McCulloch* left her anchorage this a. m, steaming to the westward.

The *Bear* at anchor all day. Capt. Bertholf came ashore and took luncheon. Mr. Hinckley established a beacon on Tolstoi.

Mr. Judge made the following counts:

Gorbatch Cliff had 1 bull and 2 quitters.

Gorbatch, 74 bulls, 16 quitters, 1 cow.

Ardiguen, 7 bulls; 200 bachelors on Reef; 2 large pods on Sea Lion Rock.

At 10 p. m. the company's steamer, *Grace Dollar*, left St. Paul for San Francisco, carrying Dr. Williamson and Mr. Allis to St. George.

June 18, 1908.—The *Bear* lay at anchor at the village all day. The *McCulloch* anchored at the village in the evening and signalled for news, to which I replied that there was nothing of importance to report.

Mr. Judge counted to-day:

Ketovi, 33 bulls, 10 quitters, 1 cow and pup.

Amphitheater, 4 bulls, 2 quitters.

Lukanin, 35 bulls, 4 quitters, 5 cows, and 3 pups.

June 19, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze; weather fair in a. m., thick fog in p. m.

Worked all day with Mr. Judge and Mr. Redpath repairing the gasoline launch. In the morning the *Bear* steamed toward Northeast Point on the east side. At 8 a. m. a schooner was sighted sailing between Walrus Island and Northeast Point. At about the same time the *McCulloch* signaled for news, and was informed that a schooner was at Northeast Point. She steamed at once around West Point.

In the evening the *Bear* returned to west anchorage and Mr. Hinckley came ashore with two officers, reporting that he had boarded the *Saikai Maru* near Northeast Point and that the *McCulloch* was at

anchor at that place. About the same time the Northeast Point watch reported that several boats were "a little over a mile from shore." I informed Mr. Hinckley, who waited ashore for half an hour, but the men at the Point had all left the watch house for the rookery, and we could obtain no further news from that place. The officers then went aboard, taking with them a bronze fitting off the gasoline launch which they will repair on board.

The captain of the *Bear* sent in word that that vessel would leave on the 22d for Unalaska, and that all passengers for that port or St. George should go aboard on that date.

Later in the evening the chief telephoned to the Point and was told by the watchmen that four boats from the schooner had landed on Walrus Island. The *McCulloch* anchored on the west side of Northeast Point.

June 20, 1908.—Wind north, light breeze; weather fair.

At 8 a. m. the *Bear* signaled for news. I signaled the fact that boats from a schooner had landed on Walrus Island yesterday. The *Bear* asked the whereabouts of the *McCulloch*, and after telephoning to Northeast Point, I replied that the *McCulloch* left Northeast Point at 2 a. m. The *Bear* got under way immediately and went by the east side to Northeast Point.

In the evening both the *Bear* and the *McCulloch* anchored on the west side at the village and the *McCulloch* signaled for news at 6 p. m. I replied that nothing of importance had occurred. The *Bear* then signaled, asking the time yesterday when the watchmen had seen the boats land on Walrus Island. Before I could signal in reply, the sun got into my line of vision and I was unable to distinguish the last hoist from the *Bear*. I then took out a boat and explained to the captain of the *Bear* verbally the incidents of the landing as reported to me. He doubted that the watchmen had seen the boats at the hour stated, as he was in thick fog at that time. I then called the chief, who was on board with me, and who had first received the telephonic message from the Point, and had him repeat what the watchmen had stated. The captain, however, could not be convinced that the watch could have seen boats land at Walrus Island from the position of the watch at Northeast Point.

The captain agreed to tow a natives' boat to Walrus Island in the morning for eggs, and also to turn out another piece of bronze for the launch. With the boat to-morrow I will send to Northeast Point a Hotchkiss gun and ammunition.

After returning from the *Bear* I found that the watch from Northeast Point, returning from their service, had come to the Government house and made a statement to Mr. Judge. The statement is appended:

Statement of Alex. Galaktioneff, watchman:

On June 19, as soon as the *Bear* had left the schooner, the schooner put six boats into the water, four of which go straight to Walrus Island, coming within 1 mile of Northeast Point, and two boats came close to the Sea Lion rookeries at Northeast Point. These two boats fired at least four shots, and before it got foggy I saw one man in each boat stand up and examine the shore with glasses. Two of the four boats had reached Walrus Island and the other two were very close to it when the fog shut in. At that time the *McCulloch* came around West Point, which was about 5 o'clock in the evening. When the schooner sent the boats to the eastward, the schooner followed them close. I watched all day and all night. At 2 a. m. the fog lifted a little and I saw that the *McCulloch* had gone away from the Point.

June 21, 1908.—Wind west, light breeze; weather bright and warm, occasional fog.

The *McCulloch* weighed anchor at 7 a. m. and stood to the southwest, after having been signaled by the *Bear*. The *Bear* signaled soon afterwards for the egg hunters to come off, and 10 natives, in two boats, went to her. The boats were hoisted aboard, and the *Bear* got under way. I sent to the *Bear* the portion of the steam launch shaft, for which Chief Wood will kindly make a fitting.

Soon afterwards a schooner appeared on the east side, and as the *Bear* got around to her she overhauled the schooner and then proceeded to Northeast Point, where she agreed to land a Hotchkiss gun sent out from the village in the natives' boats. She then went over to Walrus Island. She returned at 7 p. m., bringing a boatload of eggs, and returning the launch shaft, with the fitting made, and also a duplicate for emergencies, for all of which I desire to state here that we are under great obligations. Had this fitting not been made, and it could not be made ashore, as we had no lathe, the launch would have been out of commission for a year, until fittings could have been received from the States.

The *Bear* on arrival signaled for news and asked if the *Rush* had been reported. I replied that there was no news, and that we had not seen the *Rush*. The natives returning from Otter Island reported having found a seal skull there, freshly skinned, the remains of a recent fire, and seal bones, thus furnishing strong corroborative evidence of the correctness of the watchmen's report that boats from the *Saikai Maru* had landed there on the 19th. Officers from the *Bear* also went ashore, saw the evidence above detailed, and admitted that the watchmen were correct in their report. The *Saikai Maru* was reported to have raided the Pribilofs last year, obtaining over 60 skins.

The schooner overhauled to-day by the *Bear* was the *Toyai Maru No. 2*, the one which, in 1906, raided Northeast Point.

June 22, 1908.—Wind east, strong breeze; weather rain and fog.

The *Bear* cruised to Halfway Point and returned to the west anchorage. The *McCulloch* is reported to be at anchor at Northeast Point. The *Rush* came to anchor on the west side at about 2 p. m.

Messrs. Hinckley, Wood, and Dr. Hurley, from the *Bear*, came ashore and set up hydrographic marks on the Reef. Mr. Judge and I spent the greater part of the day repairing the launch.

Two natives and the priest and his daughter went aboard the *Bear* this evening, expecting to sail to Unalaska in the early morning.

June 23, 1908.—Wind southeast, fresh breeze; weather foggy, with occasional sunshine and light rain.

The *Bear* left her anchorage early this morning. The *Rush* and *McCulloch* were at anchor on the west side in the morning, and the latter signaled for news. I replied that there was nothing, and signaled the captain for permission for passage for myself to St. George. He replied that he would take me when he left.

No report was received from the watch at Northeast Point. Messrs. Judge, Redpath, and I finished work on the launch.

A drive for branding will be made to-morrow from the Reef, where a small drive is on foot. News received by the *Rush* shows that seals are hauling there in proportionately larger numbers than on this island, as was the case last year.

June 24, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze; weather fair in a. m.; thick fog in evening.

A drive of seals from the Reef for branding reached the village killing ground at 4 a. m. The marking of the eligible bachelors therein began at 6 and continued until about 8.30, when 572 2-year-olds and 380 3-year-olds were marked by clipping the hair and fur from the tops of their heads with sheep shears. At least 150 large half bulls were included in the drive and turned away.

During the progress of the work the *Rush* signaled for news and was answered with the signal, "Nothing of importance," etc.

The *McCulloch* signaled in the afternoon, stating that the captain would leave for St. George the following morning and would take me over if convenient to me. I replied that it was perfectly convenient, and asked whether I should come aboard to-night. The captain replied that I should, if convenient. I then thanked him. At 7 p. m. I took a boat out in thick fog and boarded the *McCulloch*.

Before leaving I arranged with Mr. Judge to brand at Zapadni in the morning, if the conditions were favorable.

June 25, 1908.—Calm, thick fog. The *McCulloch*, on account of the fog, did not get under weigh until after 9 a. m., then steamed slowly in the direction of St. George. After running her distance she was unable to make a landfall because of the unusually thick fog and stood off and on all night.

The following notes for St. Paul Island were made by Mr. Judge:

No wind, thick fog. At 5 a. m., pulled over to Zapadni with all hands and branded 119 2-year-olds and 163 3-year-olds.

On our return, between 9 and 10 o'clock, the fog lifted for a while, showing the *McCulloch* at her anchorage. At 11.30 she had taken her departure.

Northeast Point guards report hearing shooting all day offshore, but that they could see nothing on account of the fog.

June 26, 1908 (on board the *McCulloch*).—Made St. George about 6 a. m. after standing off and on all night. Fog prevented picking up the anchorage until 8 a. m. I went ashore in a ship's boat about 9, landing under the bluff instead of the usual West Landing, because of low water.

I found Major and Mrs. Clark well and with reports of having spent a pleasant winter. The whole branding quota for St. George this spring has been obtained and 132 skins in addition secured by the lessee, in addition to those seals killed in the fall for food. There were several drives of about 100 each hauled up on each of the 3 rookeries on the north side, from which drives will be made to-morrow.

An inspection of North rookery only could be made, and only a portion of that, as about 150 bachelors were hauled up on the northern central portion of that rookery. A large proportion of young stationed bulls was noted, and I was informed by Mr. Chichester that already there is an increase in stationed bulls over the number stationed at the height of the preceding season. Quite a few 7-year-old bulls were present on the rookery as quitters, which condition, I was informed, was apparent on other rookeries. An increase in bulls on this island over last year is an apparent certainty.

Lack of time and the presence of bachelors prevented an inspection of the other rookeries. Little East, the outlying flank of East rookery, is practically gone, only 2 or 3 bulls occupying stations there.

Foxes appear plentiful on St. George this summer. The statistics of fox killing on that island last winter follow:

Foxes, St. George, 1907–8.

Blue, killed or found dead	446
Died, not included in above	13
Killed, mangy	7
Total	466
Skins accepted, blue	438
Skins accepted, white	8
Total	446
Released for breeders, males	267
Released for breeders, females	272
Total	539

Total trapped, killed, and released, 1,005 blues, 8 whites.

The pigs, owned in community by the natives, suffered a distinct loss during the winter, between 55 and 60 dying of natural causes. From what I could gather those that died were generally young pigs littered during the winter and perishing for the most part through inability to withstand the winter's cold. There remain on the island about 22 pigs, old and young, divided among the several native families and the priest, and these will receive probably more careful attention than when they ran at large and were a charge on the entire community.

The native "town hall" contains a beautiful billiard table, built by Stepan Lekanoff, the workmanship in which can hardly be excelled by an expert workman. Altogether the village is in a prosperous condition apparently.

I received a request from the natives that they be allowed to receive from their earnings the sum of $10 cash at Christmas. It was rather difficult to refuse such a request, considering the fact that the natives' earnings in gross are all taken by the Government officers and expended for necessaries without the native being consulted. However, as a cash contribution of this size would seriously cripple the available resources of the island, I was forced to tell them that $10 each, in my opinion, would be more than they could afford, in my judgment, but that I would speak to Mr. Chichester and ask him to give them such amount as, in his judgment, the resources would allow.

A request was also made by George Merculieff and Peter Prokopieff that their houses be enlarged. They occupy small 2-room houses, in which their families of 8 and 9 members, respectively, reside. I stated that I would bring the matter to the attention of Mr. Redpath and request that additional room be provided in the houses occupied by these families.

Capt. Daniels came ashore in the afternoon, and at his request I returned aboard the *McCulloch* at 7.30 p. m.

The following notes for this day are by Mr. Judge:

Wind north. Issued orders for natives' supplies. Shortly after noon 1 boat loaded with provisions and coal and 3 wagons loaded with men left for Northeast Point.

On arriving there at 4 p. m., 1 schooner and the *Rush* were visible 7 or 8 miles out and as far apart. In the evening a schooner was sighted off West Point.

The Hotchkiss recently sent to Northeast Point was mounted on Hutchinson Hill, the ammunition for the same being stored in the church house at the point.

June 27, 1908.—After lying at St. George all night the *McCulloch* left her anchorage there, steaming slowly for St. Paul about 6 a. m. Thick fog at intervals. Arrived at St. Paul anchorage at 12.30 p. m. and signaled for a boat. A shore boat came alongside soon afterwards, in which I returned to the village. I brought ashore the ship's dog, which seems unable to withstand the cruising. He is to be returned on demand.

The following notes for this day are by Mr. Judge:

At 4 a. m. all hands at the point turned to and marked 109 2-year-olds and 257 3-year-olds, bachelors, thereby completing the quota for breeding purposes to be reserved during the season of 1908. After breakfast the remainder of the drive was gone over and 230 skins secured.

There were 6 food skins on hand, which were added to to-day's catch, making the entry 236. Two cut and 1 bitten were rejected. Dismissed 64 large and 6 small. The former consisted of 22 fours, 10 fives, 16 sixes, and 16 mature seals.

June 28, 1908.—Wind north; strong breeze; weather clear.

The *McCulloch* and *Rush* are at anchor at the village west anchorage. Several native boats went aboard, on one of which I sent a note to Capt. Daniels of the *McCulloch*, stating that I found a record on the island log, made during my recent absence at St. George, to the effect that on June 25 the watch at Northeast Point reported that they heard firing offshore all of that day, but could see nothing because of the fog. Capt. Daniels replied later with a note stating that the firing mentioned was target practice on the *Rush*, anchored that day at the Point.

Four schooners are in sight to the westward. The natives on watch at the flagstaff reported to me that eight boats could be seen in the water and that one of them approached within a mile of West Point. This latter fact was not reported to me until some time after the boat had approached shore and gone off again. The *Rush* left her anchorage in the afternoon to take a look about.

A drive will be made to-morrow morning from Reef.

June 29, 1908.—Wind northwest; weather clear and bright. *McCulloch* left this morning for Unalaska. *Rush* anchored on east side. Capt. de Otte came ashore for dinner. The *Bear* arrived at East Landing at 8.30 p. m. and signaled "Have mail." A boat was taken out from the east side and the mail brought in, along with the two natives who went on her to Unalaska along with the priest and his daughter.

A drive from the Reef reached the village at 4 a. m. Killing began at 5. There were killed 583 seals. Of these there were 9 cut and 3 bitten rejected and 14 small skins retained as being under the 5-pound

limit prescribed by the department. A count was then made of the retained skins accumulated during last season and fall as being under and over weight, and 26 were found which were turned over to the company as a part of its quota under the instructions contained in department letter of April 27, 1908.

There were dismissed from the drive 32 small and 213 large not branded and 140 twos and 138 threes branded. The large seals dismissed consisted of 30 fours, 83 fives, 71 sixes, and 29 sevens.

A drive will be made to-morrow morning from Tolstoi.

June 30, 1908.—Wind northwest; light breeze; weather fair and warm. A beautiful day.

The *Bear* and *Rush* were anchored on the east side until 11.15 a. m., when the *Bear* steamed to the westward and the *Rush* to the eastward. The *Bear* returned to the same anchorage in the afternoon and at 4.50 p. m. signaled for news, to which answer was made that there was nothing to report.

A drive was made this morning from Tolstoi, the drive being left at the head of the Lagoon, the warm weather preventing the seals being driven farther. At that it was necessary to dip the seals in the small lake there before they could be worked over. One large 7-year-old seal died on the drive from overheating.

There were killed 204 seals, the skins of all of which were accepted. There were dismissed from the drive 29 twos and 19 threes of branded seals and 19 small and 108 large not branded, the large seals consisting of 19 fours, 35 fives, 34 sixes, and 20 sevens.

A drive will be made to-morrow from Zapadni.

July 1, 1908.—Wind northeast; moderate fresh breeze; weather clear until 8 a. m., then foggy. The *Rush* is anchored on the west side. The *Bear* got under weigh at about 8 a. m. A gasoline schooner came in from the westward and anchored about 8.30 a. m. alongside the *Rush*. It was found to be the *Sophia Johnson*, from Seattle, calling at the island with permission from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to take photographs of seals, to be used in biograph exhibitions at the Seattle-Yukon Exposition. Capt. Bieber, the charterer of the schooner, and Capt. Quirk, the master, came ashore and, under escort of a native, visited Gorbatch rookery, where they took a series of photographs. They went aboard the schooner about 5 in the afternoon with the intention of proceeding at once to Nome.

A drive was made this morning from Zapadni, the gang proceeding there in boats towed by the steam launch. There were killed 253 seals, of which 252 skins were accepted and 1 large retained as being over weight. There were dismissed from the drive 54 branded twos and 38 branded threes. Of seals not branded there were turned away 23 small and 67 large, the latter being 18 fours, 18 fives, 13 sixes, and 18 sevens.

A start for Northeast Point will be made to-morrow morning.

July 2, 1908.—Wind northeast, light breeze; weather, thick fog.

The *Bear* was at anchor all night on the east side. The *Rush* can not be heard on the west side, and presumably has gone to Northeast Point. It is too foggy to tell whether the gasoline schooner has left.

A start for Northeast Point was made with three teams at 9.30 a. m. The point was reached at 1.30. A drive will be made from that rookery early to-morrow morning. The telephone at the point was repaired, an instrument belonging to the Government being placed in

the watch house. Another instrument was taken up with the intention of running the line to Hutchinson Hill, where the guard may telephone to the village without making the mile trip from the hill to the watch house.

July 3, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze; weather warm, with thick fog.

The drive at Northeast Point reached the killing ground at 3 a. m., and killing began at 4. From this 458 seals were killed, of which 3 were rejected—2 cut and 1 bitten. There were dismissed from the drive, of the branded seals, 86 two-year-olds and 98 three-year-olds, of the branded seals. Of those not branded, there were turned away 34 small and 76 large, the latter consisting of 18 fours, 26 fives, 21 sixes, and 11 sevens.

In returning to the village, a stop was made at Halfway Point and 108 seals killed. There were dismissed from the drive 15 branded seals—4 twos and 11 threes. Of seals not branded, there were turned away 11 small and 81 large, the latter consisting of 7 fours, 41 fives, 25 sixes, and 8 sevens.

No drive is contemplated for to-morrow.

July 4, 1908.—Wind south, very light breeze; weather fair, occasional heavy fog.

The *Bear* and *Rush* are anchored on the east side. The *Rush* signaled "Send your letters" in the afternoon. Before this signal had been received, however, I took the gasoline launch out from the west side around to the *Rush* with letters. Returning, the launch towed in five fishing boats.

July 5, 1908.—Wind south, light breeze; weather fair.

The *Bear* was at anchor on the east side all day. The *Rush* left for Unalaska in the morning. The *Perry* anchored about 5 p. m., on the west side, bringing mail from St. George.

The captain of the *Bear* came ashore in the afternoon. A boatload of sailors from the *Perry* came ashore in the evening.

A drive will be made in the morning from Zapadni.

July 6, 1908.—Wind east, fresh breeze; weather cloudy.

The drive from Zapadni this morning resulted in securing 182 skins, all acceptable. Dismissed from the drive, of branded seals, 10 twos and 4 threes; of seals not branded, 10 small and 14 large, the latter being 6 fours, 5 fives, and 3 sevens.

A drive will be made in the morning from Reef and Gorbatch.

The *Bear* remained at anchor on the east side until 1 p. m., when she steamed to the east side and anchored. The *Perry* left her anchorage on the west side and came around to east anchorage. At 12 noon a message was received from Northeast Point that six boats were to be seen there, two of which were close to shore. A signal was hoisted at once to the *Bear*, "Two boats northeast close in." She replied that our signal was so abbreviated as to be unintelligible and asked us to repeat. We then hoisted the special signal N. E., indicating the presence of suspicious craft at Northeast Point. The *Bear* then hailed the *Perry*, and the latter went at once to Northeast Point.

Two schooners in sight on the west side. No schooner was in sight from Northeast Point, notwithstanding that six boats could be seen by the watch there.

July 7, 1908.—Wind northeast, fresh breeze. Weather cloudy, with fog. Rain in a. m.

Drives were made in early morning from Reef and Gorbatch, and Tolstoi.

From Reef and Gorbatch there were killed 1,031 seals, of which 1,029 were accepted and 2 small retained. There were dismissed from the drive, of branded seals, 51 twos and 64 threes. Of seals not branded, there were turned away 113 small and 104 large, the latter being 59 fours, 35 fives, 7 sixes, and 3 sevens.

The Tolstoi drive yielded 148 skins, all acceptable. There were dismissed from the drive, branded, 5 twos and 7 threes. Of seals not branded, there were turned away 7 small and 31 large, the latter being 6 fours, 14 fives, 8 sixes, and 3 sevens.

At a signal hoisted that killing was in progress, four officers from the *Bear* and a number of sailors came ashore and witnessed the killing, which lasted from 5 to 9 a. m. The *Bear* then left west anchorage. The *Perry* anchored there sometime during the day. The *Yorktown* is reported at anchor at Northeast Point.

Yamili, the year-old son of Michael Kushin, died this morning of spinal meningitis.

July 8, 1908.—Wind northwest, fresh breeze. Weather cloudy.

All hands went to Northeast Point at 9 a. m., arriving there after 1 p. m.

The *Perry* left west anchorage in the morning and stood toward St. George. The *Yorktown* left her anchorage at Northeast Point and steamed toward East Landing, where she was joined by the *Bear*.

The watchmen at Northeast Point report that two days ago two boats came so close in to Hutchinson Hill shooting seals that the bachelors were frightened off the hauling grounds there. The watchmen abstained from firing on the boats. This was the occurrence reported to the *Bear* on the 6th instant, on which occasion the *Perry* proceeded at once to the point. The watchmen state that when the *Perry* arrived here the boats made away and could not be seen by the cutter.

July 9, 1908.—Light northwest breeze. Weather warm and foggy. The killing at Northeast Point resulted in 491 skins, 2 of which were not acceptable, 1 being cut and 1 (large) retained. There were dismissed, branded, 20 twos and 12 threes; not branded, 34 small and 40 large, the latter being 19 fours, 5 fives, 13 sixes, and 3 sevens.

On our way, returning to the village, a small drive was secured at Halfway Point, from which 33 skins were taken. From this drive there were dismissed 1 branded two and 2 threes. Of seals not branded there were turned away 15 large, consisting of 9 fives, 4 sixes, and 2 sevens. No small seals were dismissed, only several of them appearing in the drive.

At Northeast Point firing offshore was heard at infrequent intervals from 4 a. m. until we left there. No schooners could be seen, but one boat was in sight, probably inside the 3-mile limit, on the north side of Hutchinson Hill. At 9 a. m. I asked Mr. Proctor by telephone to send a note to the captain of the *Bear* informing him of the firing and the presence of the boat. Within an hour after the receipt of this note the *Bear* steamed to Northeast Point, followed by the *Yorktown*. In the evening the *Bear* anchored on the west side of the village and the *Yorktown* on the east side. The

Perry is stated to have gone to the westward this morning and boarded several schooners.

Five schooners in sight during the day on the west side. Two small boats could be seen also; all outside the limit.

July 10, 1908.—Wind west, light breeze, weather cloudy, with fog.

The *Yorktown* left East Landing at about 9 a. m. and anchored at North Shore, near Northeast Point. The *Bear* signaled for news in the morning, and, after having the chief telephone to Northeast Point, I replied that there was nothing to report. The *Bear* afterwards changed her anchorage to the east side.

A hearing was given this morning to Nestor Kushin, a 15-year-old boy, who struck Innokenty Mandregan, a 16-year-old boy, with a club, nearly putting out his eye. The Kushin boy is a bully, while the other is a quiet, harmless body, without sense enough to take care of himself. After developing through witnesses that the attack was without provocation I requested the two chiefs to take the Kushin boy to the shop and thrash him in the presence of witnesses. This was done, 20 strokes being administered with a cod line. After that, the boy being still sulky and defiant, 8 more "licks" were given him with more severity, upon which the culprit admitted he had had enough.

The Kushin boy is something of a hooligan and leads the gang of half-grown boys in the village. When the chief went for him this morning to bring him to the Government house for a hearing, the boy refused to come and picked up a pair of shears, with which he proposed to resist any attempt to punish him. The chief relieved him of the shears and afterwards brought him to the house.

A son was born this morning to Elary and Anna Stepetin, to be called Peter.

July 11, 1908.—Wind southeast, fresh breeze, weather cloudy, with fog.

A drive was made this morning from Zapadni, the gang going overland in teams and meeting the drive at Little Zapadni. There were taken 326 skins, of which 3 were rejected, cut. There were dismissed 23 twos and 8 threes of branded seals and 46 small and 10 large of seals not branded, the large being 7 fours, 1 six, and 2 sevens.

The *Bear* signaled in the morning that she would go to St. George to-morrow morning and that she would take mail, for which kind offer I set a signal thanking the captain. Shortly after noon, however, after the *Rush* had arrived and anchored on the west side, the *Bear* signaled that she was ready to sail and to hurry with the mail. I replied that a boat would go to her shortly. Soon after she again signaled to hasten. A boat by that time had started, taking what few letters we had, for St. George, and the *Bear* at once got under weigh. In the evening the *Rush* and *Perry* were seen at anchor on the west side. The *Yorktown* is anchored on the north shore, near Northeast Point.

I sent a letter to-day to Agent Chichester, at St. George, increasing the quota of that island 500 seals, making it 2,500 in all, and reducing the quota of this island to 12,500.

July 12, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze, weather fair in morning, foggy in afternoon. A boat from the *Perry* came ashore in the morning, bringing mail from St. George. Both the *Perry* and *Rush*

left in the morning, the *Perry* returning in the afternoon to the west side. A drive will be made to-morrow from Reef.

July 13, 1908.—Wind light, variable; weather warm and clear, with thick fog at intervals.

A drive was made this morning from the Reef, from which there were secured 574 skins, of which 569 were accepted and 5 rejected, cut. There were dismissed from the drive of branded seals 95 twos and 24 threes. Of seals not branded, there were turned away 152 small and 25 large, the latter consisting of 15 fours, 4 fives, 3 sixes, and 3 sevens.

After the completion of the drive and killing, Mr. Judge and I began the annual count of harems. We were precluded from finishing the count of Gorbatch, because of the discovery there of several hundred bachelors well hauled up, which the drivers this morning had overlooked. We therefore discontinued our count at a point midway of the rookery, and will finish it when the bachelors have been driven.

An inspection of the rookeries shows to the eye a decided shrinkage in cows, due to pelagic sealing. There is not, also, that increase in bulls which was expected and which we had reason to believe would occur this year. There are large numbers of young bulls on the rookeries in charge of cows, some of them so young that they run away from their harems when approached. But there seems also to have been a large falling off in bulls during the last winter, as against which the incoming of young bulls was scarcely sufficient to meet it.

The count of harems as made to-day follows:

Rookery.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Water bulls.
Ardiguen	8	1		
Reef [1]	200	20	10	5
Ketovi	42	5	2	17
Amphitheater	6	2	2	
Lukanin	44	1	3	2
Tolstoi	88	6	2	10
Tolstoi Cliffs	20		2	
Lagoon	13	1	1	

[1] 20 bulls on hauling ground.

A drive will be made to-morrow from Northeast Point.

July 14, 1908.—Wind northwest, fresh breeze; weather cloudy.

All hands went to Northeast Point this morning, arriving there about 1 p. m. A drive will be made early to-morrow morning.

July 15, 1908.—Wind northeast; weather, thick fog in morning, clear in late forenoon and afternoon.

A drive was made this morning from Northeast Point, from which there were secured 787 skins, of which 784 were accepted and 3 rejected—2 cut and 1 bitten. There were released from the drive 40 twos and 19 threes of branded seals, and of seals not branded, 107 small and 21 large, the latter being 10 fours, 7 fives, 2 sixes, and 2 sevens.

After the killing, Mr. Judge and I counted the harems on that rookery, finding 237 harems, 17 quitters, 27 idle, and 13 water bulls. Previous to our count the guard at that point made a patrol of the

entire rookery front, some suspicious noises having been heard in the early morning. This patrol probably drove off some quitters and water bulls that had hauled up.

The mass at Hutchinson Hill is compact at this date and shows no signs of disintegration, such as has occurred at this time during the two last seasons. This would argue more ability on the part of the bulls or more bulls.

The count of the rookery follows:

Bulls with harems, 237; quitters, 17; idle bulls, 27; 13 water bulls.

Between 75 and 100 sea lions were on their rookery. An iron anchor buoy was found on the east side of Sea Lion Neck.

At Halfway Point 30 skins were secured. There were also driven up 3 twos and 2 threes of branded seals and 2 small and 3 large seals that were not branded.

While there, Mr. Judge and I counted the harems on the Polavina rookeries, finding as follows:

Rookery.	Bulls.	Idle.	Quitters.	Water bulls.
Little Polavina	16	2	2	
Polavina Cliffs	24			
Polavina	36	3	1	4

The *Perry* is at Northeast Point. The *Rush* is anchored at the village on the west side. In the evening several officers came ashore and visited Reef rookery in company of Mr. Judge. A drive will be made in the morning from Zapadni.

July 16, 1908.—Wind northeast, fresh breeze; weather, foggy in early morning, then clear and bright.

The drive at Zapadni resulted in securing 280 skins, of which 279 were accepted and 1 rejected, cut. There were turned away from the drive of branded seals 38 twos and 12 threes. Of seals not branded, there were dismissed 28 small and 15 large, the latter consisting of 6 fours, 5 fives, and 4 sixes.

After the killing Mr. Judge and I counted the harems on the Zapadnis. We were assisted by two natives, but required their services only on Zapadni proper, and then only in several instances. Cows are scarce. Zapadni Reef is but a skeleton rookery. While 10 harems are noted, half of these were 1-cow harems and appeared to have been caused by the accidental meeting of a young bull and a cow on an unfrequented portion of the beach. The entire bowlder beach is deserted except in two spots, where five sparse harems of a half a dozen cows each huddle.

Our count follows:

Rookery.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Water bulls.
Zapadni	148	12		
Little Zapadni	64	4		4
Zapadni Reef	10		1	2

The *Rush* remained at anchor on the west side all day. The *Perry* returned from Northeast Point because of an easterly swell and anchored also on the west side. Four officers from the *Rush* came ashore in the afternoon and climbed Bogaslov Hill.

A drive will be made in the morning from Reef and Gorbatch.

July 17, 1908.—Wind northwest; strong breeze; weather overcast, with light rain, increasing to a moderately heavy rain during the day. The first rain on the islands this summer.

A drive was made this morning from Reef and Gorbatch and from Tolstoi. From Reef and Gorbatch there were secured 1,458 skins, 1,454 of which were accepted and 4 rejected, cut and bitten. There were dismissed from the drive, of branded seals, 153 twos and 71 threes, and of seals not branded 328 small and 71 large, the latter being 21 fours, 24 fives, 11 sixes, and 15 sevens.

From the Tolstoi drive there were killed 201 seals, all acceptable skins. Of branded seals there were released 17 twos and 12 threes, while of seals not branded there were turned away 32 small and 27 large, the latter being 10 fours, 9 fives, 4 sixes, and 4 sevens. Two officers from the *Rush* attended the killing.

The *Perry* remained at anchor at the village. The *Rush* steamed to the westward about 10 a. m. There will be no drive to-morrow.

July 18, 1908.—Wind northeast; fresh breeze; weather fair.

Eight schooners were in sight from Northeast Point this morning, and three could be seen from the village flagstaff. All of them were outside the limit. The *Rush,* after we had informed her that there was nothing of importance to report, steamed along the east side of the island beyond Walrus Island, and afterwards returned to the village. The schooners at Northeast Point were all on the west side.

The *Bear* came to anchor on the west side and signaled "Send a boat." I took out the launch soon after and boarded the *Bear,* finding there Peter Oustigoff, wife, and two children, from Unalaska. Peter was deported from this island several years ago for bad conduct, and has been at Unalaska ever since. At Unalaska this spring I gave him permission to return.

The *Bear* reports that the Republican presidential nominees are Taft and Sherman. The *Thetis,* that was reported to be jammed in the ice near Nome and sinking, was not in danger at all, and has given assistance while there to several vessels. The *McCulloch* and *Yorktown* are at Unalaska. The duty of the latter is to communicate via Nome with the department every two weeks.

In the afternoon Mr. Judge and I completed the count of harems on Gorbatch rookery, which was interrupted on the 13th by the discovery there of a good-sized bunch of bachelors. The completed count of that rookery follows: Harems, 103; idle, 6; quitters, 1; water bulls, 8.

From 15 to 20 young bulls were found on the hauling ground of that rookery.

July 19, 1908.—Wind east-northeast; fresh breeze; weather fair.

In the morning I signaled to the *Bear,* "Northeast Point reports eight schooners in sight outside the limit." The *Bear* replied, "Thanks." Later the *Bear* made a circuit of the island, returning to west anchorage in the evening.

I went aboard the *Rush* in the afternoon and the *Bear* in the evening.

July 20, 1908.—Wind northwest; fresh breeze; weather cloudy. The teams started for Northeast Point at 9 a. m. A drive is to be made there to-morrow.

July 21, 1908.—Wind northwest, light breeze. Weather fair and warm. The drive at Northeast Point resulted in securing 448 skins, all of which were accepted. There were turned away from the drive of branded seals 55 twos and 65 threes. Of seals not branded there were dismissed 29 small and 59 large, the latter being 2 fours, 19 fives, 23 sixes, and 15 sevens.

The telephone line from Northeast Point to the village is out of order. The point has 9 schooners in sight this morning, and a number of small boats are in the water. While killing, the guard reported that one schooner was coming in well within the limit and standing in for the rookery. The guard fired a warning cannon shot, at which the schooner altered her course.

A stop was made at Halfway Point, where 71 skins were taken. There were dismissed from that drive 4 twos and 12 threes, branded seals, and 5 small and 19 large of seals not branded, the latter being 2 fours, 5 fives, 4 sixes, and 8 sevens.

The *Bear* signaled in the evening for news. At 7 p. m. I went aboard and informed the captain of the number of schooners at Northeast Point and that the telephone is not working.

A drive will be made in the morning from Zapadni.

About 11.30 p.m. a runner came in from Northeast Point and was brought to the Government house by the two chiefs. The runner's name was Theodore Kochutin. He was so exhausted that he could hardly stand, and so out of breath that he could speak with difficulty only. He stated that at about 9.30 p. m. he went from the watchhouse at the point in the direction of Hutchinson Hill, whither the three watchmen had preceded him. When he reached the north shore of Webster Lake he beheld the three watchmen confronted by six strangers, presumably Japanese, from one of the schooners in that vicinity. One of the watchmen then walked in his direction, Theodore said, and "signaled" by waving his arms. Theodore took this to mean that the watchmen desired him to summon aid from the village.

Theodore immediately started for the village on a dead run, carrying with him his rifle and revolver, which he did not desire to fall into the hands of the raiders in case they should have overpowered the guard. He made the 12 miles in 1 hour and 30 minutes, carrying a rifle, revolver, and belt full of ammunition.

As the telephone was not working, I decided, in view of the statements of the runner, that it would be well not to take chances on his statements being inaccurate, but to take up some men to the point to relieve the guard there. Accordingly, I asked the chief to detail four men for the purpose. Mr. Judge, who was aroused also by the report, took a boat and went at once to the *Bear*, lying off the west side, acquainting the captain with the facts as stated, and requesting him to proceed to the point as soon as possible.

July 22, 1908.—Myself, the second chief John Stepetin, and John Fratis, Innokenty Sedick, and Trefan Kochution, armed with rifles—all but myself—started for Northeast Point at 12.30 midnight. The night was calm and foggy. We reached the point at 4 a. m., wet to the middle from walking in the tall wet grass. Simultaneous with

our arrival there was that of the *Bear*, which must have left the village for the point at once after receiving Mr. Judge's message.

We found two of the guard patrolling the rookery, and the watchman in charge standing at the salt house to receive us. The story told by Theodore was without foundation, no boat's crew having landed the evening previous, nor had the watchmen asked Theodore or given him any "signal" to summon aid from the village. A boat from the *Bear*, with Messrs. Hinckley and Alexander, and an armed boat's crew came ashore soon after my arrival and ascertained the state of the situation. I regretted that the story of the watchman was without foundation and requested Mr. Hinckley to convey my apologies to the captain, but to state that I was as badly misled by the report as he.

About 15 minutes before we reached the point shotgun firing began off the shore near the salt house and developed into a regular fusillade. Firing from small boats in the water was heard on all sides and was practically continuous. I have never heard so many shots fired in the water around the island at one time. While the officers from the *Bear* were ashore a boat could be seen through the fog off Sea Lion Neck shooting at seals in the rips off that point. Fog prevented our seeing the other boats that were firing.

The *Bear's* boat returned to her and she got under weigh in the direction of Northeast Point. Even after she started, the boat close to shore continued firing. An hour afterwards the fog lifted and showed the *Bear* coming from the northward with a schooner in tow, while another schooner was anchored off Sea Lion Neck. This second schooner the *Bear* picked up and with both in tow proceeded with them to the village.

A team, with two men, ample provisions, and arms, was sent up to the point, reaching there before noon. For the team I have to acknowledge indebtedness to Mr. Redpath, the superintendent of the company.

I left the point at about 3.30 with the men who had come up with me, arriving back at the village about 7.30. I found the *Bear* and the *Rush* anchored on the west side, with the two schooners, which were named the *Saikai Maru* and the *Kinsei Maru*. After getting something to eat, I took the launch and went aboard both cutters, reporting the state of affairs at the point. The captain of the *Rush* decided to go to Northeast Point during the night to reach there by daybreak in the hope of gettting any schooner that might take advantage of the early morning hours to come in close for seals. He would then return to the village and take the two schooners in tow to Unalaska.

The schooners were seized by the *Bear* for being within the 3-mile limit and having small boats therein shooting seals.

I found on arrival back at the village that Mr. Judge, with the launch, had been of much assistance to the *Bear* after she had returned to the village with her prizes, by running back and forth between the cutter and the schooners, towing boats, etc. He also went to Zapadni, got a barrel of seal livers and seal meat for the crew of the *Bear*.

Mr. W. C. Allis, of the company, arrived here on the *Rush* from St. George.

A drive will be made to-morrow from Reef and Gorbatch, and Tolstoi.

July 23, 1908.—Fresh southerly wind, with fog. Weather cloudy.

The drive from the Reef and Gorbatch netted 1,070 skins, of which 1,047 were accepted and 23 rejected—3 bitten, 15 cut, and 5 small—the latter retained by the department. There were dismissed from the drive 81 twos and 151 threes of branded seals, while of seals not branded there were turned away 251 small and 100 large, the latter being 41 fours, 25 fives, 23 sixes, and 11 adults.

From Tolstoi there were taken 42 skins, of which 40 were accepted and 2 rejected, cut. There were dismissed from the drive, of branded seals, two 2-year-olds and twenty 3-year-olds. Of seals not branded, there were turned away no smalls and 35 large, the latter being 5 fours, 14 fives, 7 sixes, and 9 adults.

The *Rush*, after patrolling Northeast Point this morning without finding any schooners close in, returned to the village and started for Unalaska with the *Bear's* two schooners in tow. The *Bear* circled the island later in the day, returning to the west anchorage in the evening. I went aboard with mail for St. George and reported the situation ashore to the captain. I walked to Rocky Point in the afternoon to repair the telephone line.

July 24, 1908.—Southerly wind, with rain, in morning. Weather cloudy, with fog.

The fog obscured the movements of the *Bear*. In the afternoon the captain came ashore to learn news from Northeast Point. Unfortunately, the telephone is not working, and no news from the point has been received for two days.

July 25, 1908.—Wind west, fresh breeze; weather fair. The *Bear* remained at anchor at the village during the day and drew around to Northeast Point in the evening, where she anchored off the salt house. The *McCulloch* came in to the west anchorage in the morning, and I went aboard the *Bear*, meeting there the captain of the *McCulloch*. The captain of the *Bear* kindly loaned me a magneto for testing breaks in electric circuits, to be tried on the telephone line at Northeast Point.

After lunch the three teams went to Northeast Point. In the evening the Webster House line was cut out of the Northeast Point circuit, which had the effect at once of ringing up the village and establishing connection there with the watch house at the point. The break, evidently, was in a small wire in the Webster House machine.

The watchmen at the point report that, on the 24th, 10 schooners and 30 or 40 small boats were operating around the point, the noise of the shooting being very loud. It had the effect of making the bachelors leave their hauling ground under Hutchinson Hill. They state that one large schooner, with black sails, is persistent in coming close or inside the limit and sending her boats further inshore to seal.

July 26, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze; weather foggy in morning, clearing in evening.

The drive at Northeast Point resulted in securing 348 skins, all acceptable. There were dismissed from the drive, of branded seals, 28 twos and 19 threes, and of seals not branded, 57 small and 20 large, the latter consisting of 11 fours, 3 fives, 5 sixes, and 1 seven.

The drive at Halfway Point produced only 19 skins. There were dismissed 1 branded two and 4 branded threes. Of seals not branded, there were turned away 2 small and 9 large, the latter consisting of 8 sixes and 1 old bull.

The ship's bell of the *Bear* could be heard in the fog in the morning, off the salt house at Northeast Point. Later in the day the captain came ashore there and telephoned to the village. The *McCulloch* is not in sight to-day.

The *McCulloch*, on the 24th, detained several schooners and small boats until the fog lifted enough for her to determine their position. They were picked up off West Point. They were found to be only a fraction of a mile outside the limit and were therefore released.

A drive will be made to-morrow from Reef and Gorbatch, and Tolstoi.

July 27, 1908.—Wind west, light breeze; weather fair in morning, foggy in evening.

The drive from Reef and Gorbatch resulted in 562 skins, of which 548 were accepted and 14 rejected, 5 of which were bitten and 9 small retained. There were released from the drive 115 two years and 61 threes of branded seals. Of seals not branded, there were turned away 144 small and 99 large, the latter being 4 fours, 25 fives, 57 sixes, and 13 adults.

From Tolstoi there were taken 41 skins, all accepted. There were turned away 9 branded twos and 18 threes. There were dismissed, of seals not branded, 3 small and 26 large, the latter being 6 fours, 6 fives, 13 sixes, and 1 seven.

The fog obscured the movements of the cutters, although the watchmen reported this morning that both the *McCulloch* and the *Bear* were at anchor at Northeast Point.

A drive will be made in the morning from Zapadni. A westerly swell was making in to-day, otherwise the boats would have gone to Zapadni after the Reef killing.

July 28, 1908.—Wind southeast, strong breeze; weather cloudy.

Zapadni furnished 241 skins this morning, of which 1 bitten was rejected. There were dismissed from the drive, of branded seals, 30 twos and 16 threes. Of seals not branded, there were turned away 63 small and 36 large, the latter being 5 fours, 11 fives, 16 sixes, and 4 sevens.

The *Bear* and *McCulloch* anchored on the west side in the morning and went to the north shore in the evening. The *Perry* came from St. George in the evening and went also toward north shore. In the morning the *Bear* signaled for news, and then for information as to the whereabouts of the *Perry*. She then stated that she had mail for us, to which I replied that a boat would come to her. Mr. Judge then went aboard.

July 29, 1908.—Wind southeast, moderately strong wind; weather overcast, with rain and fog.

Three cutters are anchored on the north shore at Northeast Point. The sea is rough and the landings are poor.

July 30, 1908.—Wind southwest, fresh breeze; weather foggy in morning, clear in afternoon.

The *Rush* came to the west side and signaled that she had mail. I replied that I could not get out my boat, and that she was not to attempt to land in her own boats at Gorbatch until to-morrow. The *McCulloch* came later in the afternoon on the east side and signaled that they desired information whether transportation was wanted for Mr. Judge to Unalaska to connect with the *Dora*, which would leave Unalaska on the 3d of August. To this we sent the reply,

"No; thanks." The *Bear* left Northeast Point in the morning and her whereabouts is unknown.

A drive will be made in the morning from Reef and Gorbatch, to obtain the 666 skins required to fill this island's quota. If the drive from that place is not sufficient to furnish this number, a team will be sent to Northeast Point in the afternoon, to take the remainder necessary. A good-sized drive is on Gorbatch, and it was for this reason that I requested the *Rush* not to land on Gorbatch until to-morrow, when the drive will have been made.

July 31, 1908.—Wind southwest, light breeze; weather cloudy.

The last killing of the season occurred this morning from Reef and Gorbatch, and Tolstoi. Only 666 skins were secured to fill the quota for the island, although probably 100 more skins could have been taken from this drive.

From Reef and Gorbatch there were taken 633 skins, of which 630 were accepted and 3 rejected, cut. There were turned away from the drive, of branded seals, 91 twos and 41 threes. Of seals not branded, there were dismissed 453 small and 106 large, the latter being 16 fours, 45 fives, 26 sixes, and 19 adults.

From Tolstoi there were taken 33 skins. There were dismissed, of branded seals, 6 twos and 6 threes. Of seals not branded, there were turned away 23 small and 11 large, the latter being 7 fives and 4 sixes.

At 1 p. m., 3 teams left the village for Northeast Point to haul out skins salted there on the occasion of the last killing.

A boat from the *Rush* landed on the west side in the early morning, bringing mail delivered at Unalaska by the last *Dora*.

August 1, 1908.—Wind northeast, light breeze; weather cloudy.

The teams returned from Northeast Point at noon.

In the morning, the *Rush* came into the west side and signaled for news. Replied that there was nothing to report. The *Rush* without having anchored steamed to the westward.

August 2, 1908.—Wind northeast, fresh breeze; weather cloudy. A boat from the *Perry* came ashore in the afternoon, bringing several letters and stating that a cutter would be kept at Northeast Point continuously, by order of Capt. Munger.

A dance was held in the native shop in the evening to mark the close of the sealing season.

August 3, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze; weather cloudy, with fog.

The whistle of a steamer was heard in the fog off the west side this afternoon, but the fog prevented its being made out.

August 4, 1908.—Wind northwest, strong breeze; weather foggy and cloudy.

The gasoline launch was hauled up on the ways and necessary repairs made to the gear case. The men bundled skins all day, hauling them to the point warehouse. About half the skins were bundled.

Mr. Judge, with several native men, counted the pups on Ketovi and Amphi. rookeries, finding as follows:

Ketovi, live pups, 1,628; dead pups, 79.

Amphi., live pups, 249; dead pups, 4.

On typical harem space there were 82 live and 3 dead.

This count made to-day shows the presence of practically the same number of pups as when the same space was counted last year. If this were taken as a criterion of the condition of all the rookeries

on the island, as was intended and as has been done heretofore, it would indicate that there has been no decrease in seal life during the past year, but if anything an increase. But no increase can have occurred in the face of the destruction of seals by the combined pelagic fleets. This is shown by the appearance of an attenuated condition on other large rookeries on which no count of pups was made, and on which no count would be justifiable because of the necessary disturbance of breeding seals and the driving of them off the land to meet the fleet hovering in sight of the island. It will not be well to accept the condition of Ketovi as typical of the whole island, while on the other hand it will not be prudent to sweep another rookery clean in order to make a further count.

The *Perry* is anchored off the salt house at Northeast Point. The *Rush* was seen coming from the point on the east side but has not been in communication with the village to-day.

August 5, 1908.—Wind northwest, moderate fresh breeze; weather fair.

The native men were engaged in bundling skins.

The cutters *Perry* and *Rush* are at Northeast Point.

Nicoli, the 1-year-old son of John and Claudia Kochutin, died last evening rather suddenly.

August 6, 1908.—Wind west, light breeze; weather fair.

Both cutters at the point. A number of boats out fishing which returned with extraordinary catches of halibut. The launch taken around the bay to test the clutch.

August 7, 1908.—Wind northeast, light breeze; weather cloudy.

The *McCulloch* came into west landing with a signal, "Have mail." Mr. Judge took out the launch and went aboard, receiving some native mail from St. George. The *Rush* also came to West Landing anchorage in the afternoon.

A small food drive will be made in the morning from Gorbatch.

August 8, 1908.—Wind southeast, light breeze; weather fair, bright, and warm.

A drive of seals was brought up from Gorbatch for a food killing. From this, there were secured 183 skins, of which 181 were acceptable and 2 rejected, cut. There were dismissed from the drive, of branded seals, 13 twos and 3 threes. Of seals not branded, there were released 96 small and 5 large, the latter being 1 four, 3 fives, and 1 adult.

The teams with men then left for Northeast Point to bundle the skins there. The officers from the *Rush* came ashore there in the evening and took dinner ashore. The *Rush* was anchored there all day.

August 9, 1908.—Wind southeast, moderate gale; weather overcast, with good rain.

The teams returned from the point at noon. In the evening additional lines were placed on the launches for security.

August 10, 1908.—Wind southeast, strong wind. No landing on the island.

The cutters *Rush* and *McCulloch* are anchored at Northeast Point.

The division of natives' earnings from taking sealskins during the past season was signed to-day. It will appear on the next two pages following.

August 11, 1908.—Wind southeast, strong breeze; weather overcast, with occasional rain. No landings on the island.

In the afternoon the *Rush* came to the village and signaled to know if there was a landing. She was informed that there was none. She then anchored on the west side.

August 12, 1908.—The wind is southeast, moderate breeze. Weather clearing, with occasional mist and rain.

The *Rush* was at anchor on the west side during the night, having an uncomfortable berth. In the afternoon a boat went to her, from the west side, the crew of which were informed by the captain that he would not leave here until the arrival of the *Perry* or the *Bear*. The wind rising in the evening made the landings rough again.

The *Rush* remained at anchor all night. At about 10 p. m. the company's steamer *Grace Dollar* anchored on the west side near the *Rush*. As the landing was poor, no boat went out to her.

August 13, 1908.—Wind west, fresh breeze; weather partially fair.

At 9 a. m. the *Grace Dollar* left for Northeast Point to load the skins in the salt house there. The *Rush* left at 9 a. m. for Unalaska, taking George Kotchergin and Nicoli Kozloff as passengers to Unalaska. The *Perry* and *McCulloch* are at anchor on the west side.

August 14, 1908.—Wind southwest, fresh breeze; weather cloudy. The native men worked from 4 a. m. to 10 p. m. unloading the cargo from the *Grace Dollar*. In the evening the passengers for San Francisco went aboard of her, as follows: Assistant Agent James Judge and wife; J. C. Redpath, superintendent North American Commercial Co.; W. C. Allis, agent North American Commercial Co.; M. A. Williamson, M. D., former physician, St. Paul; Morris Holtzman, formerly teamster.

The *McCulloch* remained at anchor all day on the west side.

August 15, 1908.—Wind south, fresh breeze; weather cloudy.

The *Grace Dollar* left for San Francisco at 6 a. m.

At noon the *McCulloch*, on the west side, signaled that she would take mail and passengers for St. George. At 2 p. m. a boat went aboard of her, taking Michael Kozloff as passenger for St. George.

August 16, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze; weather cloudy, fair.

The *Perry* came from Northeast Point, made a circuit of the island, and again anchored at the point.

August 17, 1908.—Wind northeast, cloudy, with rain.

In the morning a count was made of all the skins remaining in salt in the salt house at the village, and the following number of skins were found:

Retained by the agents from last season, 32. Drive from reef, August 8, 183; 181 accept, 2 reject, cut. Watch skins, Southwest Bay, 7.

In the afternoon the British gunboat *Algerine* came in to East Landing, and her commander, Capt. Edwards, accompanied by Lieut. Sims and Surg. Hewitt, visited Gorbatch rookery and returned aboard at 6.30.

August 18, 1908.—Wind east, light breeze; weather fair.

The *McCulloch* anchored on the west side at noon, after having signaled for us to come for our mail. At 2 p. m. I went aboard in the gasoline launch, finding a small package of mail. I brought the captain and 2 officers ashore and took them to Gorbatch rookery. After spending a pleasant afternoon I took them aboard at 5.30. At 7 p. m. 6 native men went aboard to make the trip to Unalaska.

August 19, 1908.—Wind south, light breeze; weather fair, with occasional light rain.

The *McCulloch* left early in the morning for Unalaska. At 6 p. m. the *Rush* came to east landing. I sent a boat's crew over with instructions to take out a boat, but before they got there the *Rush's* boat put off from the ship, bringing ashore the 2 men who had made the trip to Unalaska in her, and brought ashore also a quantity of freight for the natives. The ship's boat returned with an oral message from me to the captain. The *Bear* is expected here on the 21st.

August 20, 1908.—Wind south, fresh breeze; weather fair.

The *Rush* left her anchorage on the east side at 9 a. m., steaming in the direction of Northeast Point. Issued to-day the potatoes and onions ordered in the spring for the natives.

August 21, 1908.—Wind south, moderate gale; weather overcast, with steady rain. A strong southerly swell, breaking on both landings.

No word of the cutters was received to-day.

August 22, 1908.—Wind south, fresh breeze; weather cloudy in morning, fair in afternoon. Swell abating.

The watchmen from Southwest Bay returned this afternoon, reporting but one schooner was seen by them during the week. They report the watch house at Southwest Bay to be in a bad condition. The watchmen from Northeast Point also reported that the *Perry* and *Rush* are at anchor at Northeast Point. On Tuesday, the 18th, a boat from one of the schooners came in so close that the watchman stationed then on Hutchinson Hill fired four shots to frighten them away. The boat, after the shooting, put about and stood away from the rookery. At the time of the firing the captain and the surgeon of the *Perry* were on shore at the Point to take a photograph of the sea-lion rookery. The captain saw the approaching boat, and without taking the photograph returned hastily to the cutter and went after the boat, which, the watchmen state, by that time was well out.

The priest to-day requested permission for the marriage of Innokenty Sedick and Ripsemia Serebrinikoff. It was given. The wedding is to occur on the 29th of this month.

August 23, 1908.—Wind south, light breeze; weather cloudy in morning, fair later.

The landings are poor on both sides of the island. The cutters are at anchor at Northeast Point—the *Rush* and the *Perry*.

August 24, 1908.—Wind northwest, light breeze; weather fair.

The *Perry* passed the east side of the village this morning with a signal set, "Have you any news?" Replied that there was nothing to report. She steamed to the westward, returning about 6 p. m., at which time I hoisted a flag on East Landing. The cutter, however, did not come to an anchor but steamed in the direction of Northeast Point.

The steam launch was hauled up this evening.

August 25, 1908.—Wind southwest, fresh breeze; weather cloudy, with fog.

The native men were engaged all day in working for the company.

The cutters *Bear* and *Rush* are at anchor on the north shore. Nothing is seen of the *Perry*, and the supposition is that she has gone down to Unalaska. We regret that she did not stop yesterday to give us an opportunity to send mail.

August 26, 1908.—Wind southwest, fresh breeze; weather fair, with occasional fog.

The *Rush* left Northeast Point this morning for St. George. In the afternoon, Mr. Hinckley, of the *Bear*, went ashore at the point and telephoned to me that he wished to erect beacons on several prominences for the purpose of charting soundings about the point. In the evening the captain also went ashore and telephoned to me. He stated that this would be the last trip of the *Bear* to the islands. He stated further that the two schooners captured by him this summer were both held by the commissioner at Unga, and that the crew was left there to be taken by the *Bear* to Valdez for trial in October. He stated that the pelagic schooners are leaving the sea, and that the last schooner should be away from this region about September 8.

August 27, 1908.—Wind northeast, light breeze; weather fair.

The *Bear*, after standing off and on Northeast Point, came to West Landing about 4 p. m. In the evening Capt. Bertholf came ashore, and took off with him the anchor buoy of the *Yorktown* and the kyak, belonging to Mr. Hinckley, which we have had ashore patching. The *Bear* will leave the sea on September 3, and will go to Valdez, in time for court, which is to convene on October 1.

August 28, 1908.—Wind, light breeze, veering northeast and northwest; weather fair.

The *McCulloch* came in sight at 11 a. m., from St. George. At 1.30 p. m., made out her signal, "Send a boat." A pulling boat went out to her, and brought ashore the six men who had been taken to Unalaska on her a week ago, and also the St. George visitor from this island. With Peter Bourdukofsky returned a bride from the Jessie Lee Home in Unalaska—a fine-looking young woman aged 17, named Petersen, born in Unga. They were married in Unalaska by the Protestant head of the home, but a further ceremony according to the rites of the Russian Church will be performed on this island a week from next Sunday.

About 3 p. m. the *Rush* also anchored on the west side, and Capts. Daniels and de Ottee came ashore and remained to dinner. After dinner I took them aboard in an island boat, the gasoline launch refusing to work after having started. Capt. Daniels took aboard the box of stationery for St. George, which the *Grace Dollar* landed here by mistake.

The *Rush* will leave here for Unalaska on the 30th, and will take with her three native men from this island who desire to visit relatives in Unalaska.

August 29, 1908.—Wind, light breeze, varying west and south. Weather fair, with fog.

The *Rush* and *McCulloch* both left West Landing in the morning. The *Bear* is at Northeast Point.

I spent the day repairing the gasoline launch, which required new batteries, and which also had a large quantity of water in the gasoline tank. This latter condition was the cause of its inaction last evening.

August 30, 1908.—Wind south, strong breeze, rising to strong wind. Weather overcast, with rain.

At about 10 a. m. the *Rush* anchored off East Landing, where previously I had had a flag hoisted, and signaled, "Send passengers." I replied, "Boat is coming to you." I had a boat launched at east landing at once, in which Karp Buterin and John and Simeon Fratis

with a boat's crew went to the *Rush*. The natives named are to make the trip to Unalaska. The *Rush* at once got her anchor and steamed toward St. George.

The *McCulloch* soon afterwards came into view, steaming from St. George. She passed the *Rush* and headed for Northeast Point without approaching the village.

At 2 p. m. Innokenty Sedick and Ripsemia Shaposhnikoff were married. In the evening a dance was given in their honor.

August 31, 1908.—Wind southwest, moderately strong wind. Weather overcast, with drizzle and fog.

Owing to the fog the movements of the cutters to-day could not be observed. There is no landing on either side of the village.

September 1, 1908.—Wind southwest, strong breeze. Weather, thick fog.

School opened this morning with 40 pupils—19 boys and 21 girls. In the afternoon a steamer's whistle was heard in the fog, presumably near the Reef on the south side. The shop bell was rung and the whistling ceased. The thick fog prevented our ascertaining what vessel it was.

September 2, 1908.—Wind west, moderate gale. Weather cloudy, clear.

The *Perry* was found this morning at anchor between the Reef and East Landing. At about 9 a. m. she steamed to East Landing and signaled, "Have mail." I replied, "Boat is going to you."

Although the wind was blowing strong, the chief volunteered to take a boat out. Accordingly, the Government boat at East Landing was launched, and, with two men on each oar, went out to the *Perry* and brought back a small quantity of mail, principally Chinese newspapers. The *Perry* at once got her anchor and steamed for Northeast Point, where this morning the *McCulloch* and the *Bear* were anchored.

September 3, 1908.—Wind west, light breeze in morning, changing to northeast in afternoon. Weather clear.

At 11 a. m. the cutter *Bear* anchored on the east side in response to a signal set at that landing. Capt. Bertholf and Mr. Hinckley, the executive, came ashore and had lunch. At 1.30 p. m. the captain went aboard with Mr. Hinckley. On the *Bear* went to Unalaska the following natives of this island on a visit: Elary Stepetin, Dorofay Stepetin, Necon Shabolin, John Merculieff, Trefan Kochutin, and Alex. Melovidoff. The captain stated that this would be the last trip of the *Bear* to the islands this season, as he would leave on the 15th of this month for Valdez, to attend the trial of the Japanese sealers arrested by him this summer for killing seals unlawfully off Northeast Point.

Two natives from St. George were landed at Northeast Point this morning by the *McCulloch* and they made their way to the village.

September 4, 1908.—Wind northwest, light breeze. Weather fair. In the morning the *McCulloch* and *Yorktown* both came to anchor on the west side. Went out to them in the gasoline launch, and Capt. Glennin, of the *Yorktown*, with five officers, and Capt. Daniels, of the *McCulloch*, with one officer, came ashore for lunch, and subsequently visited Gorbatch rookery. Two liberty parties from the *Yorktown* and two officers subsequently came ashore.

I returned Capt. Glennin to his vessel in the launch at 5 p. m., also towing a boatload of sailors at the same time to the *Yorktown*. That vessel soon afterwards got under weigh for Unalaska, her period of cruising being completed.

In the evening Mr. Proctor and I made a short call on the captain and officers of the *McCulloch*.

September 5, 1908.—Wind northwest, light breeze. Weather fair. The *Perry* has been at anchor at Northeast Point all week. The *McCulloch* left her anchorage on the west side and steamed toward Walrus Island, returning in the afternoon. The guard at Northeast Point reports one schooner in sight, the same one that has been around for several days, and which was overhauled yesterday by the *Yorktown*. It is the *Chitose Maru 2*, and is supposed to be leaving the sea to-day. No other schooners are in sight, and the patrolling officers believe that all the Japanese fleet is now on its way home.

September 5, 1908.—Wind northwest, light breeze. Weather fair, with bright sun in afternoon.

At 8 a. m. signaled the *McCulloch* that there was nothing of importance to report. She then steamed toward Northeast Point, returning in the early afternoon and anchoring on the east side. Capt. Daniels then came ashore, returning aboard about 4 p. m. Light rain and cloudy at 10 p. m.

September 6, 1908.—Wind west, light breeze; weather fair.

At 8.30 a. m. the *McCulloch* signaled for news and I replied that there was nothing of importance to report.

At 2 p. m. Peter Bourdukofsky and his bride were again married, this time by the Russian Church ceremony. Capt. Daniels and three officers came ashore to witness the ceremony. The captain and myself held the crowns. The captain and one officer stayed for dinner, returning aboard at 8 p. m.

The captain took aboard the two St. George men who have been here for a week. He took also five men from this island to visit St. George.

At about 4 p. m. the *Perry* steamed past the east side, having come around the island from the north side. I set a signal stating that I desired a personal interview, for the reason that Capt. Daniels desired to speak with the captain of the *Perry*. The *McCulloch* also hoisted a signal for the *Perry*, but the latter evidently saw neither, as she steamed on her course about 3 miles off the shore, heading for Northeast Point.

A dance was held in the shop in the evening.

September 7, 1908.—Very light westerly breeze, practical calm; weather cloudy.

At 10 a. m. the *Perry* came in sight on the east side from Northeast Point. She having been reported about 9.30, I had a man set a flag at East Landing, but the *Perry* held her course for Reef Point and did not come into east anchorage. The flag signal at East Landing was flat against the mast.

At 4 p. m. the *McCulloch* came to anchor at East Landing and signaled for a boat. The *Perry*, which at that time was standing for Northeast Point, also headed in for East Landing. I took a boat to the *McCulloch* and found that the captain had been to St. George and landed the natives for that island, but that on account of a heavy northerly swell was unable to lie at that island and therefore came over here. He had mail for the island and a letter from him to me.

I went with the captain in his boat to the *Perry* to pay a call on the captain of that vessel and then returned ashore in my boat. Both vessels may remain here to-morrow.

Good rain in the evening with somewhat rising westerly wind.

September 8, 1908.—Wind west, fresh breeze; weather fair, with shifting banks of thick fog.

At 8 a. m. both the *McCulloch* and the *Perry* are at anchor on the east side. At that time, after telephoning to Northeast Point, I set a signal that there was nothing of importance to report, but because of the fog it was not seen for some time.

The natives who visited St. George report that there are several cases of mumps there. There have been at least 10 cases of mumps on this island, with ready recovery in each case.

The *Perry* got under weigh for Northeast Point about 8.30.

The *Rush* anchored on the east side about 1 p. m. The captain of the *McCulloch* then signaled us that the *Rush* had mail. I sent a boat out, but the *Rush* had already sent a boat in and landed the mail and the three passengers that went to Unalaska with her on August 30. The *Perry* soon appeared from the eastward and also anchored on the east side. The chief engineer and doctor from the *Perry* came ashore and visited Reef rookery.

A strong southerly gale springing up in the afternoon, the *Rush* and *Perry* went to Northeast Point, while the *McCulloch* went in the direction of St. George I had several applications from natives of this island to go aboard the *McCulloch* for passage to Unalaska, but I refused all of them, believing that we had put the friendship of the captain of that vessel to a severe test and that any further requests for transportation would for that reason be out of place. Then, again, there are now 11 men away from the island, either at St. George or Unalaska, not counting the 7 men on watch, and the island work is practically at a standstill because of lack of workmen.

September 9, 1908.—Wind west and northwest, heavy gale, with rain.

The wind which arose last evening continued to increase until this morning it became a heavy gale. At 10 a. m. it became necessary to batten down the roof of the Government house to prevent all the shingles on the west and south sides from being blown off. As it was, quite a patch on the west side was blown off before the shingles could be secured. The schoolhouse and native houses through the village also suffered. In the evening it was decided that it was unsafe to leave the gasoline boat in the water overnight, and accordingly the gang was called out at 7 p. m. and the launch hauled up on the ways after some little trouble caused by the backwash in the cove. Some of the planking on the wharf also narrowly escaped being carried away.

At midnight the wind and sea were both rapidly subsiding, and the indications are that conditions to-morrow will be nearly normal and that the severe storm is local in its scope.

September 10, 1908.—Wind northwest, light wind, changing in afternoon to north, heavy wind.

At noon the *Perry* anchored on the east side and signaled for news. I replied that there was nothing of importance to report. At 4 p. m. the vessel steamed to the west side and anchored there.

September 11, 1908.—Wind northwest, strong wind. Weather fair with squalls of rain and sleet.

The *Perry* remained at anchor all night on the west side. At 8 p. m. I hoisted the signal indicating that there was nothing of importance to report. At noon she had anchored on the east side, where the landing was so poor that it was not advisable to hoist the landing flag there.

The late gale turned over the large Government boat kept at East Landing, rolling it over twice and crushing in a portion of the planking. It can be repaired without much effort, however, and will not affect the efficiency of the boat.

September 12, 1908.—Wind west, fresh breeze; weather fair.

The *Rush* anchored on the east side last evening about 9 p. m.

At 8 a. m. this morning I signaled that there was nothing of importance to report, to which both the *Perry* and *Rush* responded. I then had a flag hoisted on the east side to indicate a landing there. The Government boat at East Landing was raised and lashed to place. At 10 a. m. Mr. Proctor with a team and men went to Northeast Point to replace shingles blown off by the recent gale. The watch at Zapadni will be discontinued from this date, as the sea is clear of sealers.

In the afternoon the *Perry* signaled that she would take mail and that she would sail to-morrow at daybreak. I thanked the captain, and, after inquiry at the company house and finding that there was no mail there, replied to the *Perry* that we had no mail to send.

September 13, 1908.—Wind northwest, fresh breeze; weather fair, with occasional squall.

The *Perry* left east anchorage at about 6 a. m. for Unalaska. The *Rush* lay there until about noon, then anchored off the salt house at Northeast Point. At 8.30 a. m. I hoisted the signal to indicate that there was nothing to report and then had a flag hoisted at East Landing. In the afternoon two officers went ashore at Northeast Point.

The team of mules which went to Northeast Point yesterday with Mr. Proctor appeared in the village this morning, having escaped from the inclosure at the point. It was necessary to send them back, which was done, a driver leaving here with the horse and two mules in tow at 10 a. m. Mr. Proctor and the workmen returned to the village at 6 p. m.

I walked to Rocky Point in the afternoon. Snipe have left the island, save a few, and there are no migrant ducks. Two blue cranes are in the tundra between Kaminista and Rocky Lake, but are so wary that they can not be approached, their harsh croak indicating their alarm before they can be seen.

A dance was given in the native shop this evening by Nicoli Bogadanoff.

September 14, 1908.—Wind northwest, brisk breeze; weather fair, with squalls of rain.

The *Rush* anchored at the village at about 3 p. m. The native men employed in working for the company. I went after the two blue cranes seen on Kaminista Flat yesterday, but although I maneuvered for an hour I could not get within 200 yards of them. They took flight on getting my scent, as I was forced to get into the wind of them to cover my approach behind the only hillock within range.

The school-teacher this evening reported the absences of eight pupils, whom, I found on inquiry, were under treatment for the mumps. The doctor reports 18 cases in the village so far. This

disorder has been in the village since August, but has been confined to a few families until recently, when it gives every appearance of spreading to the entire village. Isolation was tried at first without checking the malady, and there is nothing to do now but to let it run through the village.

September 15, 1908.—Wind, northwest, fresh breeze; weather fair with squalls of rain and snow. Quite a snowstorm in the morning.

At 8 a. m. signaled to the *Rush* that there was nothing to report. The Government boat at East Landing was repaired in the morning.

The *Rush* left her anchorage at about 9.30 a. m. and steamed toward Otter Island, where she went fishing. In the afternoon she returned to East Landing and the captain and Mr. Kean came ashore and stayed for dinner, returning aboard in an island boat at about 8 p. m.

Capt. de Otte will go to St. George and try to bring back the St. Paul men that are visiting there. He will leave the islands on the 19th for Unalaska and Seattle.

The doctor found five new cases of mumps in the village to-day. The schoolmaster returned a list of 9 pupils absent, all down with the mumps. Twenty-three cases so far.

September 16, 1908.—Wind northwest, moderate gale, heavy squalls of sleet and snow.

The *Rush* remained at anchor all day. The native men, such as were not engaged in working for the company, were engaged in digging down the bank in the rear of the native shop.

Twelve children absent from school to-day because of mumps. The doctor reports 9 new cases, 32 in all.

At 8 a. m. the *Rush* was signaled that there was nothing to report.

EXHIBIT 10.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 11, 1908.*

MY DEAR MR. LEMBKEY: I am sending you with this, under separate cover, the following reports:

Annual statement of fur seals killed.
Weights of sealskins taken, season 1908.
Young male seals branded.
Statistics of killings and seals turned away.
Count of bulls.
Harem counts.
Seal division.
Shipping receipts for 2,498 sealskins.

No attempt was made this year to count pups on any of the rookeries for the reason that during the latter part of July and early August hardly a day passed that there were not one or more Japanese sealers operating off the rookeries. Under the circumstances both Maj. Clark and myself deemed it to the best interest of the seal herd not to subject the rookeries to the great disturbance necessary in pup counting.

I am much gratified to be able to report that there has been a very material increase in the number of bulls on all the rookeries this year, with the exception of Little East. Both in bulls and cows

this rookery has fallen considerably short of last year and seems to be doomed to speedy extinction.

From counts and observations made during the summer I think it quite safe to say that there has been little if any decrease in the number of cows this year. Very careful counts made on North, East, Reef, and East Cliffs are almost identical with those made last year. By reason of the massing of seals and the impossibility of reaching a point where the whole rookery can be observed counts on Zapadnie and Staraya Artel are only approximate, but it is my belief that there are as many cows on these rookeries this season as there were last.

Although the quota of skins to be taken on this island was raised from 2,000 to 2,500, no difficulty was experienced in filling it. Less drives were made this year than last and less 5-pound and more 7-pound skins were taken. Only 5 seals with skins weighing under 5 or over 8½ pounds were killed. The quota was filled by July 25, and had sealing been carried on until the end of the month I am confident that 500 more skins could have been obtained.

On July 28 Gregory Swetzof died of pulmonary tuberculosis. His widow (née Zoya Mandregan) of St. Paul wishes to return there to live. She has one child a couple of years old. Kindly advise me if the transfer would meet your approval.

On July 31 I allowed Nicolai Malavansky to take passage on the U. S. S. *McCulloch* for Unalaska. He is in quest of a wife and has not yet returned.

During the past month from one to four schooners have been sighted nearly every day, none very close to land. But on several occasions small boats have been seen shooting seals well within the 3-mile limit. On August 1 for nearly half a day I watched three boats off East rookery shooting seals not more than 2 miles from shore. So close were they that with my glasses I could plainly see them fire, then lift the dead seal into the boat.

The native guards have done good work this summer, and that no raids have been attempted is, I think, due to their vigilance.

At your earliest convenience please advise me of the amount of the appropriation which will be allotted to this island.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent in Charge St. George Island.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Alaskan Seal Fisheries,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

Annual statement of fur seals killed on St. George Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1908.

Date.	Rookery.	Number of seals killed for natives' food.							Number of seals killed by lessees for skins.						Aggregates.		
		Pups.	Large young seals.	Total.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Skins rejected.			Accepted.		Rejected.			Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
						Under size.	Stagy.	Cut.	Prime.	Second class.	Under size.	Cut.	For other reasons.				
1907.																	
Aug. 6	North		46	46	46										46		46
10	Watchmen		5	5	5										5		5
10	Watchmen Zapadni		6	6	6										6		6
Oct. 19	North Staraya Artel and East		144	144	144										144		144
25	....do		50	50	50										50		50
26	Zapadni watch		4	4	4										4		4
30	Staraya Artel and North		54	54	54										54		54
Nov. 2	Zapadni watch		6	6	6										6		6
6	East and Zapadni watch		7	7	7										7		7
6	North		70	70	70										70		70
14	North and Staraya Artel		9	9	9										9		9
15	East		20	20	20										20		20
18	Staraya Artel		5	5	5										5		5
24	North		4	4	4										4		4
1908.																	
June 8	North and Staraya A. (food)		20	20	20										20		20
8	Zapadni watch		2	2	2										2		2
13	....do		2	2	2										2		2
13	North		10	10	10										10		10
19	East		11	11	11										11		11
20	Zapadni watch		2	2	2										2		2
23	Zapadni watch (food)		9	9	9										9		9
24	North and East								80					80	80		80
24	Turned over by order of department over and under weight skins of last year								19					19	19		19
27	Staraya, North, and East								140					140	140		140
29	Zapadni								56			1 1		57	56	1	57
July 2	North, Staraya A., and East								272					272	272		272
7	....do								301			1 1		302	301	1	302
9	Zapadni								107					107	107		107
11	North, Staraya A., and East								274		3			277	274	3	277
14	Zapadni								48					48	48		48

16	North								184					184	184		184
20	Staraya A., North, and East								326					326	326		326
21	Zapadni								89					89	89		89
25	North and East								108					108	108		108
25	Zapadni								5					5	5		5
			486	486	486				2,009		3	2		2,014	2,495	5	2,500

[1] Overweight.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Department Commerce and Labor,
in Charge St. George Island.

EXHIBIT 12.

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
BERING SEA, ALASKA,
August 11, 1908.

This is to certify that Twenty-four hundred and ninety-six (2,496) fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Grace Dollar*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, Department Commerce and Labor.

JOHN G. HAGEN,
Master Steamer "Grace Dollar."

EXHIBIT 13.

Statistics of killings and seals turned away, St. George Island, 1908.

Date.	Rookery.	Killed.	4-year.	Released.						
				5-year.	6-year.	Bulls.	Previous brand.	Small.	Total driven.	Percent killed.
June 12	Staraya Artel	Branding.	35	10	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	.....
13	North	Food 10	3	32	10	.....	13	.....	68	14
17	Staraya Artel	Branding.	.....	24	15	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
19	East	....do.....	8	24	15	5	11	.....	.....	.....
22	Staraya Artel	....do.....	8	13	20	16	53	.....	.....	.....
23	Zapadni	....do.....	.....	6	6	18	.....	15	.....	.....
24	East and North	80	14	30	30	7	69	.....	230	34
27	East, North, and Staraya Artel	140	5	48	36	15	138	39	421	33
30	Zapadni	57	5	12	.....	15	41	11	141	40
July 2	East, North, and Staraya Artel	272	25	34	32	20	65	80	528	51
7	.....do.....	302	20	24	18	9	34	92	499	62
9	Zapadni	107	.....	2	5	5	22	12	153	53
11	East, North, and Staraya Artel	277	9	8	1	4	69	142	510	53
14	Zapadni	48	2	3	.....	4	20	25	102	47
16	North	184	9	4	3	2	54	181	437	42
20	East, North, and Staraya Artel	326	17	26	13	3	123	190	698	46
21	Zapadni	89	4	2	5	2	32	62	196	45
25	North and East	108	5	9	2	1	44	140	309	31
	Total	2,000	169	311	211	143	788	989	4,292	46

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries, in Charge St. George Island.

EXHIBIT 14.

Weights of sealskins taken on St. George Island, season ending July 31, 1908.

Pounds.	Number of skins.
4½	5
4¾	4
5	153
5¼	111
5½	252
5¾	68
6	556
6¼	118
6½	387

Pounds.	Number of skins.
6¾	54
7	453
7¼	63
7½	147
7¾	25
8	53
8¼	15
8½	5
8¾	2
9	4
10	1
12½	1
19 skins over and under weights of last year turned over to company by order of the department (for weights see statement for last year)	19
4 watch skins not weighed	4
Total	2,500

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries,
in Charge St. George Island.

EXHIBIT 15.

Count of bulls, St. George Island, 1908.

Rookery.	Bulls with harems.	Idle bulls.		Total.	
		Stationed.	Quitters.	Idle.	Bulls.
East Cliffs	41	.....	9	9	50
East Reef	20	3	4	7	27
Little East	5	.....	1	1	6
North	94	16	5	21	115
Staraya Artel	41	8	3	11	52
Zapadni	40	7	5	12	52
Total	241	34	27	61	302

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries,
in Charge St. George Island.

EXHIBIT 16.

Harem counts, St. George Island, 1908.

Date.	Rookery.	Harems.	Cows.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.
July 12	East Cliffs	41	1,648	.....	9
12	East Reef	20	612	3	4
12	Little East	5	138	.....	1
13	North	94	2,877	16	5
13	Staraya Artel	41	1,282	8	3
13	Zapadni	40	1,600	7	5
	Total	241	8,157	34	27

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries,
in Charge St. George Island.

EXHIBIT 17.

Young male seals branded on St. George Island, season 1908.

Date.	Rookery.	2-year.	3-year.	4-year.
June 12	Staraya Artel	11	33	5
17	....do	40	43	4
19	East	31	21	3
22	Staraya Artel	81	40	2
23	Zapadni	40	36	3
24	North and East	.....	27	.....
		203	200	17

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries,
in Charge St. George Island.

EXHIBIT 18.

[Seal division, St. George Island, Alaska, August 1, 1908.

By 2,495 sealskins, at 75 cents		$1,871.25
To 14 first-class men, at $83.90	$1,174.60	
To 4 second-class men, at $67.30	269.20	
To 7 third-class men, at $50.35	352.45	
To 2 special-class men, at $75	75.00	
Total	1,871.25	1,871.25
First class:		
1. John Galanin	83.90	
2. Rev. Peter Kashavarof	83.90	
3. Stepan Lekanof	83.90	
4. Demetri Lestenkof	83.90	
5. Mike Lestenkof	83.90	
6. Nicolai Malavansky	83.90	
7. George Merculif	83.90	
8. Joseph Merculif	83.90	
9. Nicolai Merculif	83.90	
10. Andronic Philamonof	83.90	
11. Gregory Philamonof	83.90	
12. Simeon Philamonof	83.90	
13. Peter Prokopief	83.90	
14. Emanuel Zaharof	83.90	
Second class:		
1. Alexander Galanin	67.30	
2. Walter Kashavarof	67.30	
3. Demetri Philamonof	67.30	
4. Michael Shane	67.30	
Third class:		
1. Anatoli Lekanof	50.35	
2. Sergius Lekanof	50.35	
3. John Merculif	50.35	
4. Stepan Merculif	50.35	
5. Paul Swetzof	50.35	
6. Isidoe Nedarazof	50.35	
7. Gregory Swetzof	50.35	
Special class:		
1. Stepan Lekanof, chief	40.00	
2. Joseph Merculif, second chief	35.00	

I hereby certify that the above division was made by me after conference with the native chiefs on this island.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent, United States Department of Commerce and Labor, in Charge St. George Island.

I hereby certify that the amounts as above stated have been placed to the credit of the respective natives on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

B. NETHERLAND,
Agent North American Commercial Co.

The division as above made is hereby approved on behalf of the natives of St. George Island.

STEPAN LEKANOFF, *First Chief.*
JOSEPH MERCULIEFF, *Second Chief.*

EXHIBIT 19.

Fox division, St. George Island, 1908.

By 438 blue fox skins, at $5 each	$2,190.00
By 8 white fox skins, at $1 each	8.00
By 2 small fox skins, natural-history specimens, sent to Mr. Lucas, Brooklyn, at	10.00
	2,208.00
To 12 first-class shares, at $102.45	1,229.40
To 7 second-class shares, at $82	574.00
To 5 third-class shares, at $61.52	307.60
To 3 special shares, amounting to $80	80.00
To hydrant keeper, $5	5.00
To repairs to native library, etc., $12	12.00
First class:	
1. Galanin, John	102.45
2. Lekanoff, Stepan	102.45
3. Lestenkoff, Dimitri	102.45
4. Malavansky, Nicolai	102.45
5. Merculioff, George	102.45
6. Merculioff, Joseph	102.45
7. Merculioff, Nicolai	102.45
8. Philimonoff, Andronic	102.45
9. Philimonoff, Simeon	102.45
10. Prokopioff, Peter	102.45
11. Zacharoff, Emanuel	102.45
12. Kashivaroff, Peter, priest	102.45
Second class:	
1. Galanin, Alexander	82.00
2. Kashivaroff, Walter	82.00
3. Lestenkoff, Michael	82.00
4. Philimonoff, Gregory	82.00
5. Philimonoff, Dimitri	82.00
6. Shane, Michael	82.00
7. Swetzoff, Gregory	82.00
Third class:	
1. Lekanoff, Anatoli	61.52
2. Lekanoff, Sergius	61.52
3. Merculioff, John	61.52
4. Merculioff, Stepan	61.52
5. Niderezoff, Isidor	61.52

Special class:

1. Stepan Lekanoff, as chief, expenses	$35.00
2. Joe Merculioff, expenses as second chief	25.00
Joe Merculioff, as hydrant keeper	5.00
3. Nicolai Niderezoff	20.00
4. Repairs to library of natives	10.00
5. Oil used at hydrant	2.00

The foregoing fox division was made by me after due conference with the native chiefs on St. George Island.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

The foregoing amounts have been placed to the credit of the natives designated respectively on the books of the North American Commercial Co.

BENJAMIN NETHERLAND,
Agent.

Approved on the part of the natives of St. George Island.

STEPAN LEKANOFF,
First Chief.

JOSEPH MERCULIOFF,
Second Chief.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 4, 1908.*

WALTER I. LEMBKEY, Esq.,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

SIR: I have respectfully to hand you herewith the fox division made by me for the natives of St. George Island, the fund obtained through the catch of foxes for the past winter, 1907–8.

Very respectfully,

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

EXHIBIT 20.

Number of family.	Number of persons.	Name of individual.	Family relation.	Ages.	Date of birth.	Remarks.
1	1	Galanin, Alaexander	Husband	22	Sept. 11, 1880	
	2	Galanin, Mary	Wife	22	June 22, 1892	
	3	Galanin, Akalina	Mother	46	1862	Supported by N. A. C. Co.
2	4	Galanin, John	Husband	26	Sept. 30, 1881	
	5	Galanin, Anna	Wife	26	1881	
3	6	Kashivaroff, Walter	Husband	21	Feb. 7, 1887	
	7	Kashivaroff, Helena	Wife	24	May 27, 1884	
	8	Kashivaroff, Andrew	Son	1	Apr. 19, 1907	
4	9	Lekanoff, Stepan	Husband	38	Sept 11, 1869	
	10	Lekanoff, Pelagia	Wife	38	Oct. 20, 1869	
	11	Lekanoff, Anatoli	Son	18	Apr. 13, 1890	
	12	Lekanoff, Sergius	Son	16	Oct. 6, 1891	
	13	Lekanoff, Sara	Daughter	14	Aug. 30, 1893	
	14	Lekanoff, Marina	Daughter	13	Mar. 9, 1895	

Number of family.	Number of persons.	Name of individual.	Family relation.	Ages.	Date of birth.	Remarks.
	15	Lekanoff, George	Son	11	Apr. 7, 1897	
5	16	Lestenkoff, Dimitri	Husband	46	May 27, 1862	
	17	Lestenkoff, Alexandra	Wife	28	May 5, 1879	
	18	Lestenkoff, Constantine	Son	9	Sept. 29, 1898	
	19	Lestenkoff, Elizabeth	Daughter	Inf't.	Sept. 1, 1907	
6	20	Lestenkoff, Michael	Husband	35	Oct. 12, 1872	
	21	Lestenkoff, Oulita	Wife	38	Oct. 20, 1869	
	22	Lestenkoff, Innokenty	Son	11	Sept. 25, 1896	
	23	Lestenkoff, Anna	Daughter	9	Sept. 30, 1898	
7	24	Malavansky, Nicolai	Widower	43	Dec. 18, 1864	
8	25	Malavansky, Ripsimia	Spinster	50	1858	Supported by the N. A. C. Co.
	26	Malavansky, Wassie	Spinster	33	Aug. 22, 1874	Do.
	27	Malavansky, Christopher	Son	4	June 8, 1904	
9	28	Merculioff, George	Husband	34	Nov. 15, 1873	
	29	Merculioff, Stepanid	Wife	29	Dec. 21, 1878	
	30	Merculioff, Peter	Son	9	July 10, 1899	
	31	Merculioff, Sophie	Daughter	6	Sept. 29, 1901	
	32	Merculioff, George, jr	Son	5	Apr. 29, 1903	
	33	Merculioff, Nicolai	Son	2	Nov. 26, 1905	
	34	Merculioff, Alexandra	Daughter	1	Apr. 3, 1907	
	35	Merculioff, Martha	Sister	16	July 8, 1893	
10	36	Merculioff, Joseph	Husband	36	Mar. 17, 1872	
	37	Merculioff, Marvara	Wife	29	May 14, 1879	
	38	Merculioff, Parascovia	Daughter	1	Dec. 8, 1906	
	39	Merculioff, John	Brother	18	Jan. 18, 1890	
11	40	Merculioff, Nicolai	Husband	28	May 19, 1880	
	41	Merculioff, Matrona	Wife	25	Oct. 28, 1883	
	42	Merculioff, Laurence	Son	5	Sept. 8, 1902	
	43	Merculioff, Benjamin	Son	2	Oct. 28, 1905	
	44	Merculioff, Elizabeth	Daughter	Inf't.	June 3, 1907	
12	45	Merculioff, Wassalis	Widow	57	Jan. 20, 1851	Supported by the N. A. C. Co.
	46	Merculioff, Alexandra	Daughter	30	Apr. 21, 1878	
13	47	Niderezoff, Nicolai	Bachelor	30	Dec. 18, 1877	
	48	Niderezoff, Isidor	Brother	17	Feb. 15, 1891	
15	49	Philimonoff, Andronio	Husband	41	Oct. 24, 1867	
	50	Philimonoff, Zenobia	Wife	41	Nov. 12, 1866	
	51	Philimonoff, Leonti	Son	14	May 6, 1894	
	52	Philimonoff, Alexandra	Daughter	12	Apr. 25, 1896	
	53	Philimonoff, Eoff	Son	6	June 8, 1902	
15	54	Puilimonoff, Gregory	Husband	35	Oct. 18, 1872	
	55	Philimonoff, Malania	Wife	34	Jan. 12, 1874	
	56	Philimonoff, Dimitri	Brother	22	May 25, 1886	
	57	Philimonoff, Paul	Nephew	12	July 11, 1896	
16	58	Philimonoff, Simeon	Husband	57	Aug. 3, 1850	
	59	Philimonoff, Evadotia	Wife	37	Feb. 28, 1871	
	60	Philimonoff, Zoya	Daughter	16	Nov. 12, 1892	
	61	Philimonoff, Joseph	Son	14	Feb. 4, 1894	
	62	Philimonoff, Ignati	Son	8	Dec. 29, 1899	
	63	Philimonoff, Julia	Daughter	6	Mar. 3, 1902	
	64	Philimonoff, Helena	Daughter	4	Apr. 10, 1904	
17	65	Prokopioft, Peter	Husband	44	May 29, 1864	
	66	Prokopioff, Stepanida	Wife	31	Nov. 18, 1876	
	67	Prokapioff, Martha	Daughter	12	Mar. 8, 1896	
	68	Prokopioff, Marina	Daughter	10	Mar. 5, 1898	
	69	Prokopioff, Alexander	Son	6	May 1, 1902	
	70	Prokopioff, Lavrenty	Son	4	Aug. 20, 1903	
	71	Prokopioff, Fevronia	Daughter	3	July 2, 1905	
	72	Prokopioff, Mary	Daughter	1	Nov. 17, 1906	
	73	Prokopioff, Anna	Daughter	Inf't.	May 7, 1908	
18	74	Shane, Michael	Bachelor	20	Oct. 10, 1887	
	75	Shane, Raisse	Mother	56	1852	
	76	Merculioff, Stepan	Cousin	17	Sept. 27, 1890	
19	77	Swetzoff, Gregory	Husband	22	Nov. 29, 1885	
	78	Swetzoff, Zoya	Wife	21	1884	
	79	Swetzoff, Agnes	Daughter	1	Dec. 2, 1906	
20	80	Swetzoff, Paul	Bachelor	16	July 8, 1892	
	81	Swetzoff, Fevronia	Sister	31	June 25, 1877	
21	82	Zacharoff, Emanuel	Husband	28	July 1, 1898	
	83	Zacharoff, Mary	Wife	34	Apr. 1, 1874	
	84	Zacharoff, Daria	Daughter	6	Apr. 2, 1902	
	85	Zacharoff, Kate	Daughter	2	Dec. 7, 1905	
		Priest's family:				
22	86	§Kashivaroff, Peter	Husband	51	Mar. 3, 1857	
	87	Kashivaroff, Anna	Wife	43	Jan. 17, 1865	
	88	Pavloff, Katherine	Niece	14	Dec. 2, 1893	

SUMMARY.

Number of native inhabitants last census	93
Increase of natives by births during the year	2
Decrease of natives by deaths during the year	6
Decrease of natives by transfer to St. Paul Island during the year	1
Net decrease during the year	5
Total native population at present	88

The foregoing is a correct census of St. George Island, Alaska, on the 30th day of June, 1908.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent, in Charge.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, October 5, 1908.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the Government buildings on the Pribilof Islands are in need of repairs. These buildings were erected in the early seventies, and have had practically no repairs since. For example, the Government house on this island needs a new shingle roof, the one now on being so loose that portions of it blow off in every gale and it becomes necessary to batten down the roof with planks to save the remainder. This house also needs some heavy timbers to replace rotten sills and joists. The board floor of the Government coal house also is in poor condition, and the coal drops through, while some of the tiebeams are rotting. This building requires a concrete floor, as well as repairs to the rafters. The watch house at Zapadni virtually is uninhabitable, and entails hardship on the men required to live there on guard duty. We require also a small building in which to shelter the artillery from the rough winter weather.

In view of these conditions, I have the honor to recommend either that an allotment of $2,500 be made from the contingent appropriation of the department for this purpose, or that the Congress be asked to make a special appropriation of $3,000 for repairs to public buildings on the Pribilof Islands.

Very respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, October 30, 1908.

SIR: I have the honor to present the following question for the consideration of the department:

The first lessee of the sealing right, namely, the Alaska Commercial Co., established a system of savings accounts on these islands, under which the native residents were encouraged to deposit with the company such sums as they might save from their earnings, upon which the company paid an annual interest of 4 per cent. Under this arrangement a number of natives opened savings accounts, some only for a few dollars, some for as much as $2,000.

When, in 1890, the new contract was entered into between the Government and the present lessee, these old savings accounts were transferred to the North American Commercial Co., which company for some years thereafter continued to pay interest on these old accounts, and to accept new accounts as well. About six years ago, however, the company refused to accept any new accounts to bear interest, on the ground that it did not wish to do so. At the same time, however, it retained such old accounts as were in existence at that time, and has continued to pay interest thereon up to the present day.

In all respects, therefore, the practice of the present lessee conforms to that of the old lessee as regards these accounts, save that the present lessee will not open new savings accounts.

Recently, however, the company, on the request of Mr. Judge, accepted as an interest-bearing account a small sum of money saved by the chief, Merculief, while, at the same time, the company refused to accept as interest bearing an account representing a sum of money saved by a widow.

Upon my request this summer that he receive as an interest-bearing account that of the widow, Mr. Redpath stated that he had authorized payment of interest on the account of Merculief because he was chief and to a certain extent an employee of the company whom he desired to favor; that this action did not in any sense change the policy of the company not to accept new accounts to bear interest, but was in the nature of a favor to one native who had performed service for the company. He declined to accept the widow's account as an interest-bearing one.

I will state that the company still accepts deposits from the natives, which are subject to be drawn upon at any time, but upon which interest is not paid.

Under these circumstances, I desire to submit to the department the question whether the acceptance by the company of interest-bearing accounts from the natives is a duty under its contract, or whether it is an accommodation merely, to be exercised at the pleasure of the lessee. I inclose herewith a copy of the lessee's contract with the Government.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 8, 1908.

SIR: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of October 30, 1908, in which you ask whether the acceptance of interest-bearing accounts from the natives on the islands of St. Paul and St. George is a duty of the North American Commercial Co. under its contract or an accommodation merely, to be exercised at the pleasure of the lessee.

In reply thereto there is inclosed a copy of a memorandum opinion of the solicitor, to whom your letter was referred. You are requested to submit to the department your views as to the advisability of

drafting a regulation to cover this subject matter along the lines indicated in this memorandum.

Respectfully,

WM. R. WHEELER,
Assistant Secretary.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent, St. Paul Island,
Pribilof Group, Alaska.

(Incl.)

DECEMBER 4, 1908.

[In re inquiry as to whether the North American Commercial Co. is required under contract of March 12, 1890, to accept, and pay interest thereon, savings accounts from natives on the islands of St. George and St. Paul, in the Territory of Alaska.]

In a letter to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, under date of October 30, 1908, Mr. W. I. Lembkey, agent in charge of the seal fisheries, submits to the department the question whether the acceptance of interest-bearing accounts from the natives on the islands of St. Paul and St. George is a duty of the North American Commercial Co. under its contract or an accommodation merely to be exercised at the pleasure of the lessee.

Mr. Lembkey explains that the Alaska Commerical Co., the former lessee of the sealing privilege, established a system of savings accounts on these islands, under which the natives were encouraged to deposit with the company such sums as they might save from their earnings and upon which the company paid an annual interest of 4 per cent. He states that when the present lessee began operations under its contract all of the existing savings accounts were taken over and new accounts were also accepted. It appears, however, that about six years ago the company refused to accept new accounts, although it retained those already in existence. While in one case an exception was recently made, the company refuses to take interest-bearing accounts, although open accounts are accepted.

Under its contract with the United States the lessee is bound "to obey and abide by all rules and regulations that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor has heretofore or may hereafter establish or make in pursuance of law, concerning * * * the comfort, morals, and other interests of said inhabitants. * * *"

While it does not appear that the Secretary has ever issued a regulation covering the matter in question, it would appear that under its agreement the company would be bound to abide by a regulation requiring it to hold for safe-keeping such money as the inhabitants of the islands might accumulate. Such a regulation would, under the conditions that exist on the islands, be entirely reasonable and without hardship to the company. But I am of the opinion that the authority of the Secretary does not extend so far as to enable him to require that the company shall pay interest on the amounts so deposited. This view, however, requires some explanation and modification. To require the company to pay interest on deposits would imply that these deposits would have to be safely invested by the company. The authority of the Secretary can not be held to extend so far. But, on the other hand, if the company should see fit to invest these deposits on its own initiative, the income therefrom would rightfully belong to the depositors. The company would only be entitled to so much of the income as would cover the expense of

making the investment, plus a moderate compensation for so doing. A very fair way to apportion this income would be to credit the depositor with 4 per cent interest and to allow the company the excess. It is due to the depositors that the company should not be allowed the use of the deposits without giving some compensation in return.

The matter may therefore be summed up in the following propositions:

A requirement that the company should provide for the safe-keeping of the accumulated wealth of the natives would be reasonable and within the terms of the contract. To require the natives to hide away their money would induce crime, while, on the other hand, the company alone has the means for the safe-keeping of this money.

The Secretary has no authority to require the company to invest such deposits, and therefore can not require interest to be paid thereon.

The Secretary has the authority, by regulation, to prevent the company from investing the deposits of the natives with the alternative that if the deposits are invested interest at 4 per cent per annum shall be credited to the accounts of the depositors. Should such a regulation be drawn, means of insuring good faith on the part of the company could doubtless be worked out on practical lines.

In this connection attention is called to the fact that the contract of the present lessee expires on April 30, 1910. If the sealing privilege is to be granted under a new contract, it would be entirely proper for the Secretary to cover the subject matter of Mr. Lembkey's question by express stipulation.

Respectfully submitted.

SOLICITOR.

[Memorandum.]

In the matter of the advisability of drafting a regulation to cover the subject matter of interest to natives on deposits held by the North American Commercial Co., in accordance with the opinion and suggestion of the solicitor hereto attached, it seems hardly worth while to draft a regulation covering the matter at this time, for the following reasons:

(*a*) The accounts the company refused interest on are few and the amounts involved not large, and there is at present no reason to believe there will be any further increase of such accounts during the life of the existing lease.

(*b*) The present lease expires April 30, 1910. If the contract for the sealing privilege is renewed, the subject matter of this opinion can, as indicated, be incorporated therein by express stipulation.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Agent Seal Islands.

[Memorandum.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,
Washington, December 18, 1908.

In view of what is said in the attached memorandum of Assistant Agent Judge, I would suggest that this correspondence be retained in

the files of the chief clerk, to be taken up when the question of entering into a new lease comes up in the spring of 1910.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES EARL,
Solicitor.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Approved.

W. R. W.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, November 11, 1908.

SIR: You are hereby directed to report at once to the Acting Commissioner General of Immigration, for duty in the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, for a period not to exceed 10 days.

Respectfully,

OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries in Alaska.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, November 11, 1908.

SIR: You are hereby directed to report at once to the Acting Commissioner General of Immigration, for duty in the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, for a period not to exceed 10 days.

Respectfully,

OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries in Alaska.

[Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, retransfer of the Alaskan seal service to the Bureau of Fisheries, by James Judge, assistant agent, seal islands.]

In December, 1905, a proposition was advocated by Dr. David Starr Jordan, and the Commissioner of Fisheries, Mr. Bowers, for the removal of the Alaskan seal service, from the direct supervision of the Secretary, to the Bureau of Fisheries. The proposition involved the removal of two of the seal agents and the substitution therefor of two naturalists.

It was alleged by Dr. Jordan that "the fur-seal question was almost wholly biological in character, and that the preservation and increase of the herd, and the reestablishing of the fishery on the highly productive commercial basis of two decades ago could be intrusted only to trained naturalists."

Hon. V. H. Metcalf, at that time Secretary of Commerce and Labor, in a letter to the President, dated January 2, 1906, took exception to both statements.

He showed that the decrease in seal life on the Pribilof Islands was due to pelagic sealing, and nothing else, and that the reestablishment of the industry could be accomplished only by securing international regulation, which would stop the slaughter of seals at sea.

He pointed out that the naturalists, according to their own statements, have already exhausted the scientific features of seal life, and quoted to that effect from a statement by Dr. Jordan himself, in 1902, at a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session.

The Secretary also pointed out that the recommendations of the Jordan commission for the preservation and increase of the seal herd had in every instance proved impracticable, and that, instead of increasing the herd, many deaths among seals were directly due to the efforts put forth in carrying out said recommendations.

A transfer of the seal service was not deemed advisable by Secretary Metcalf, for reasons cited in said letter, to which attention is respectfully invited.

In order, however, to ascertain the latest developments in seal life, Mr. H. C. Marsh, an expert in the diseases of fishes in the Bureau of Fisheries, was sent by Secretary Metcalf to the islands in the summer of 1906. Mr. Marsh arrived on the islands early in June of that year and remained there until the middle of the following August. He was rendered every assistance by the resident agents in his investigation.

Dr. Jordan, in commenting on the report of Mr. W. I. Lembkey, agent in charge of seal fisheries (S. Doc. No. 98, 59th Cong., 1st sess.), contended that the number of bulls reported did not comprise all the bulls present, and in his memorandum he referred to the fact that deaths among seal pups due to *uncinaria*, an intestinal parasite, were not reported.

Mr. Marsh had instructions to investigate these two points particularly.

In the matter of bulls, Mr. Marsh carried maps of the rookeries and on these he depicted the positions of the bulls found, with the exact number present when the respective counts were made. The number found was fewer than reported the preceding year and verified the counts of the agent at that time.

In regard to *uncinaria*, Mr. Marsh, although on the rookeries daily from June 6 until July 28, found not a single case. At the latter date the further disturbance of the rookeries was prohibited, by order of Mr. Sims, on account of the activity displayed by Japanese sealers in the vicinity of the islands. No naturalist has since visited the Pribilofs.

In 1897 Dr. Jordan recommended that a naturalist be made superintendent of the seal herd. (Fur Seal Investigation, pt. 1, p. 194.)

No action was taken on this recommendation by the present or succeeding Secretaries of the Treasury or Department of Commerce and Labor, and in 1906, as indicated herein, Secretary Metcalf declined to make any change which would affect the conduct of affairs on the islands.

The subject was again brought forward early in 1907 by Dr. Jordan and Commissioner Bowers, and Secretary Metcalf again refused to comply with their wishes and order the transfer of the seal agents to the Bureau of Fisheries, as desired by them.

Just who is advocating the change at this time or the arguments used are unknown to the writer.

The present force consists of one chief and three assistants. Three of these are lawyers, the fourth a student of medicine. The junior agent has spent eight years in this service on the islands, the three others longer periods.

All are zealous in their work and thoroughly understand administrative conditions on the islands as well as the handling of seals and foxes. In addition to being familiar with seal and fox life they understand the natives, who under their guidance have proved their own worth in trying situations and are making material progress in the art of correct living.

Every change of officers affects these people, who are worthy of consideration at the hands of the department.

One of the complaints of the past was the frequent change of officers. Dr. Jordan, speaking of the fact that the agents of the Government were not investigators, says, on page 191, Fur Seal Investigation, part 1:

* * * To make matters worse, these men were speedily replaced by others equally inexperienced as soon as, by reason of practical contact of the affairs of the islands, they began to acquire some knowledge of their duties.

On page 387, Fur Seal Investigation, part 2, he says:

The Government should retain its competent agents during good behavior, as the company does. Messrs. Redpath and Webster have been long in the service of the two companies and have a thorough knowledge of every phase of the practice relating to seals. * * * The Government's interests are seldom as carefully managed as the company's. When the Government agent has become somewhat experienced a change puts a new and untried man in his place.

The present system in this department was inaugurated by Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, and most of the time since his departure the Assistant Secretary has had special charge of the seal agents.

The departmental regulations under which the seal agents operate on the islands were framed by Mr. Hitchcock and have been continued with few alterations since his time. They worked smoothly and satisfactorily and in a manner beneficial to the public service.

It is understood that those desiring a change in the present status of the seal agents make no specific charge of defects in the existing system, but offer general statements only. It is fully believed that the change suggested would not result in improvement of the service; it would be an experiment.

The contract of the present lessees of the seal islands expires next year. Who will be best equipped when the time for leasing again arrives to inform the department as to desired changes in the new contract, etc.; men of experience on the islands or new appointees?

As every scientific investigation of seal life involves at times the driving of seals into the water, and consequently into the hands of pelagic hunters such investigation while pelagic sealing continues should be prohibited rather than encouraged.

Mr. C. H. Townsend, a naturalist of the Fish Commission, visited the islands annually from 1884 to 1900.

On his last visit he said it was useless for him to make the trip, as the Treasury agents could gather the information desired, and he availed himself of the data in their possession.

Mr. Marsh, likewise in 1906, accepted the counts made and data collected by the agents of this department and used the same without scruple as to its correctness and genuineness.

Mr. Townsend spent more time on the seal islands, studying seal life, than probably any other five naturalists. He ought to be a good judge of the proficiency of the agents, and if the latter were proficient in 1900 their experience since should have made them more so.

Owing to the operations of the Japanese sealing fleet, in close proximity to the islands part of the rookery work has, since 1906, with the approval of the department, been discontinued and should remain so while pelagic sealing goes on.

The moving reason for this transfer of the seal agents to the Fish Commission is that the herd of seals need scientific control and management. See letters of Commissioner of Fisheries, February 8, 1905, and February 10, 1906, and letters of Dr. Jordan at about the same dates.

Scientists can not be put in charge without discharging part of the present skilled force, who hold tenure under civil-service rules, or else by enlarging the force, which would require an act of Congress.

It is suggested that with the herd in its present depleted condition and pelagic sealing still in practice to further deplete it an appeal to Congress to enlarge the force can not be made consistently.

The question arises, Will any gain in simplicity in handling sealing matters come about by making the proposed transfer? All the files and all information regarding the seal service are now in possession of the Secretary. The seal agents now in Washington are arranging a careful index of these files, and one or more of the agents will always be on hand to produce them when needed. Only during the period of summer sealing are all the agents required on the islands.

No other men can become as skilled in the business as are these agents, save by assuming and performing their work. The head of any bureau, to which the seal agents may be attached, will have to rely on the men from the islands to supply him with information, as is the case at present.

It is not believed that the interests of the Government and of the natives will be served to the best advantage by a supervision half scientific and half business. The Government supervision must be one or the other. Any conflict of authority between the Government representatives would be deplorable, and work disastrously so far as the natives are concerned. The agents occupy a delicate situation in the discharge of their duties. They are required to govern the natives by the use of moral influences only. No police, no magistracy, no jail or other machinery for exercising judicial authority is provided for them. For at least seven months in each year there is no mail or communication with the outside world. The interests of the company, as also the personal interests of its employees, often clash with the interests and wishes of the natives, and the desires of the latter are not always just and right.

The Government agent stands for all the law and authority of the Government on the islands. When a native considers himself wronged he appeals to the Government agent for redress.

The company men seldom do so.

They are able to take care of themselves and in any controversy with the natives or the Government agent, are always united, and

generally supported by their home office. The Government agents deserve the support and encouragement of the department to secure the best results. With a conflict of authority in the Government house or feeling of mutual distrust, such as a divided responsibility will engender, the native seeking redress would be at a disadvantage.

Unity of action and the mutual support of each other by the Government agents are important elements in the administration of affairs on the islands. No charges have been preferred against any of the agents. Affairs on the islands are at present well administered. This being the case why make any change? As before shown, the uniform action on former movements for the transfer of the seal service to the Bureau of Fisheries has been adverse. No new facts or features come into the case. It is, therefore, with great respect suggested that the department's action be in accord with that of the past.

It is to be observed that Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock, when connected with the Department of Commerce and Labor, had charge under the Secretary of the sealing business; that he made an exhaustive examination of all the questions affecting the seal life; that, as before stated herein, he prepared the regulations under which the business is now conducted. Furthermore, that he has fully considered the question of placing the seal agency under the Commissioner of Fisheries, the matter having come up for consideration at the time the control of the salmon fisheries was transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries. At that time the seal fisheries were exempted specifically from such transfer and retained under the chief clerk.

Mr. Hitchcock's knowledge of the seal life was so perfect and his mastery of the seal question was so complete that the President remitted the subject to his supervision and control even after he became First Assistant Postmaster General. It is earnestly recommended that if the reasons assigned in the foregoing statements are not deemed sufficient that Mr. Hitchcock's knowledge of the subject be availed of.

Respectfully submitted.

DECEMBER, 1908.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 28, 1908.

To the Commissioner of Fisheries, the agents charged with the management of the seal fisheries in Alaska, and others concerned:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Statutes of the United States, sections 1973 and 161, and by the organic act creating this department, approved February 14, 1903, it is hereby ordered that, subject to the direction of the head of the department, the Commissioner of Fisheries shall be charged with the general management, supervision, and control of the execution, enforcement, and administration of the laws relating to the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska; that the agents charged with the management of the seal fisheries of Alaska, together with such other persons in the employ of the department as may hereafter be engaged in the execution of the said laws, shall be subject to the immediate jurisdiction and control of the Com-

missioner of Fisheries, and shall, in addition to the duties required of them by law, perform such other duties as he may, with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, prescribe; that the appropriations for "Salaries, agents at seal fisheries in Alaska," 1908 and 1909, "Salaries and traveling expenses of agents at seal fisheries in Alaska," 1908 and 1909, and "Supplies for native inhabitants, Alaska," 1908 and 1909, shall be expended under the immediate direction of the Commissioner of Fisheries, subject to the supervision of the Secretary; and that all records, papers, files, printed documents, and other property in the department appertaining to the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska shall be transferred from their present custody to the custody of the Bureau of Fisheries.

OSCAR S. STRAUS, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 2, 1909.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your order of December 28, charging the Commissioner of Fisheries with the general management, supervision, and control of the execution, enforcement, and administration of the laws relating to the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska, and making subject to his jurisdiction and control the agents charged with the management of the seal fisheries, together with such other persons in the employment of the department who may hereafter be engaged in the execution of the said laws.

The instructions embodied in the order will be carried out.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

PART II. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO REVENUE-CUTTER PATROL.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 1, 1908.

Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Port Townsend, Wash.

SIR: 1. You are informed that the President has designated the revenue cutters *Bear*, *McCulloch*, *Perry*, and *Rush* to cruise, as far as may be practicable the present season, in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, including the waters of Alaska within the domain of the United States, for the enforcement of the act of Congress approved December 29, 1897, and the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration decreed the 15th day of August, 1893, for the preservation of the fur seals.

2. Under the provisions of the act of Congress above referred to, it is unlawful for any citizen or vessel of the United States to engage

in pelagic sealing at any time or in any manner in the waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the 35th degree of north latitude and including the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. You are there directed to seize any vessel of the United States found navigating the waters as above indicated, in violation of the law, and send the same to the nearest or most accessible port of the United States; upon arrival there to be surrendered to the custody of competent authority having jurisdiction.

3. Since, under the enactment by Congress above referred to and given in full in the regulations, Fur-Seal Fishing Season of 1902 (which apply to the present season), vessels of the United States are prohibited absolutely from engaging in fur-seal fishing within the geographical limits prescribed, it follows that the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration (given in full herewith) are applicable only to British vessels, and that fur-seal fishing is prohibited to subjects of Great Britain at any time or in any manner within a zone of 60 geographic miles around the Pribilof Islands, inclusive of territorial waters, and from May 1 to July 31 in that part of the Pacific Ocean, inclusive of Bering Sea, situated north of the 35th degree of north latitude and eastward of the 118th degree of longitude from Greenwich, until it strikes the water boundary described in article 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Bering Straits.

4. You will arrange with the senior British naval officer at Unalaska engaged in carrying out the provisions of the award, for the mutual delivery of vessels of the one country seized by officers of the other.

5. The following instructions in relation to the enforcement of the fur-seal regulations are issued for your guidance:

(*a*) The terms of the award apply only to vessels of the United States and Great Britain. The first duty of the boarding officer is to satisfy himself, by an inspection of her documents, as to the vessel's nationality. Vessels boarded beyond the legal jurisdiction of the United States, and found to be of a nationality not included in the award are not to be searched or detained longer than is necessary to establish the fact.

(*b*) Long chases are not advisable. After a vessel is brought within reach of your guns if she does not bring to, display the national ensign and open fire. Fire one blank and one solid shot as a warning. If she still neglects to come to the wind, aim to hit, and use the force at your command to compel her to submit to being boarded and searched.

(*c*) A mere cursory or perfunctory search of vessels boarded is strictly forbidden. The search must be made by two commissioned officers, or one commissioned and one petty officer, and the necessary number of men, who are required to remain on board until every part of the vessel where a sealskin or a shotgun or rifle could be concealed has been searched.

(*d*) Boarding officers are required to exercise courtesy and forbearance and avoid all discussions. Offensive remarks or actions by members of the crew or others on board the vessel being searched are under no circumstances to be taken notice of.

(*e*) Should a sealskin be found on board that bears satisfactory evidence of having been shot within the Bering Sea, or killed in any manner within the area of the award in the Pacific Ocean between

April 30 and August 1, or within 60 miles of the Pribilof Islands, at any time, the vessel must be seized.

(*f*) Any vessel of Great Britain found within the area of the award during the closed season engaged in fur-seal fishing or fitted for fur-seal fishing and not being provided with the special sealing license is ordered seized. When any licensed sealing vessel of Great Britain is found within the area of the award during the closed season having on board a seal-hunting outfit, she should be seized only if it be found that she was sealing or contemplating sealing within the area at that time. If the boarding officer finds evidence of the recent use of her boats and sealing outfit, or that they were in readiness for immediate use for taking fur seals, the matter should be closely investigated, and, if the circumstances warrant, she should be seized.

(*g*) Only sailing vessels are permitted to engage in fur-seal fishing during the period of time and in the waters in which fur-seal fishing is allowed. Any vessel propelled in whole or in part by steam or motive power other than sail found so engaged is ordered seized.

(*h*) If a vessel which appears to be a sealing vessel is found within the area during the period of time in which fur-seal fishing is forbidden, you will ascertain whether she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing; whether she was carried there by stress of weather, by a mistake during foggy or thick weather, or is there in the ordinary course of navigation making the best of her way to any place. You must judge whether such vessel has been engaged in fur-seal fishing from the presence of sealskins or bodies of seals on board, or salt, and from other circumstances and indications.

(*i*) If such vessel is found outside of the area of the award and it is evident that she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing within said area, and has thus committed an offense, you will seize her. A vessel may violate the law by her boats fur-seal fishing within said area while the vessel herself is outside of said area.

(*j*) When you make a seizure you will at the time thereof draw up a declaration, in writing, stating the conditions of the seized vessel, the date and exact place of seizure, giving the latitude and longitude and any additional data by which exact location may be determined, and circumstances showing guilt. Arms or skins found (the cause of seizure), as well as all papers, must be examined on board the seized vessel, and so marked as to be readily identified by the boarding officers when produced in court or elsewhere. This is important and must not be neglected.

(*k*) The seized vessel will be taken or sent, as soon as practicable, with all persons on board thereof, in charge of a sufficient force to insure delivery, together with witnesses and proofs, and the declaration of the officer making the seizure, if American, to the most convenient port of California, Oregon, Washington, or Alaska, and delivered to the officers of the United States court; and if British, to Unalaska and there delivered to the senior British naval officer present, or taken to the most convenient port in British Columbia and delivered to the proper authorities of Great Britain, or deliver her to the commanding officer of any British vessel authorized to receive her.

(*l*) A signed and certified list of papers of the seized vessel will be delivered to the master thereof, and duplicate copy transmitted with the declarations.

(*m*) Any British vessel boarded and found not to be subject to seizure will be furnished with a copy of the fur-seal regulations.

(*n*) Each vessel so boarded shall be given a written certificate showing the date and place of examination, the number of fur-seal skins, and the number of bodies of seals on board. A duplicate of said certificate shall be preserved.

6. You will also cause careful attention to be given to the matter of preventing raids on the Pribilof Islands and guard as far as possible the 3-mile territorial limit, and to this end you will cause the agents of these islands to be frequently communicated with in order that the commanding officers of the cutters may avail themselves of any information in the possession of the agents touching the movements of marauding vessels. The agents on the islands have received instructions from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor that the cutters will cooperate with them to remove undesirable persons from the islands. You will arrange to have at least one vessel constantly stationed on patrol duty in the vicinity of the islands.

7. Prior to August 1 the efforts of the vessels should be directed toward preventing raids on the islands. After that date, when the Canadians are allowed to begin sealing, one of the vessels should share with the British cruiser on patrol the duty of maintaining the 60-mile zone. As the Japanese fleet, however, will probably be most active in August, the patrol of the zone should be subsidiary to the protection of the islands.

8. The patrol of Bering Sea should be continued until every sealer has left the sea, or until about October 15, and as the last cutter leaves the sea in the fall, the commanding officer should make a special trip to the islands for the purpose of obtaining for the Government the latest information regarding the conditions thereon.

Respectfully,

(Signed) BEEKMAN WINTHROP,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C., May 2, 1908.

Approved.

CHARLES EARL,
Acting Secretary.

[Memorandum in re changes in instructions to revenue cutters on patrol in Bering Sea, as compared with 1907.]

The instructions to the revenue-cutter patrol for 1907 (Sec. F) contained an order that any vessel of Great Britain found within the award area having on board a sealing outfit suitable for taking seal, but forbidden then and there to be used, shall be seized.

The instructions for 1908 alter this order by providing that if the vessel is found within the award area with such implements and there is evidence that she had recently taken seals or was about to engage in taking seals she should be seized, in the discretion of the boarding officer.

(NOTE.—I quote the instructions for 1908 from memory only.—W. I. L.)

By reference, it is ascertained that the British Bering Sea award act, 1894 (Apr. 23, 1894), to give effect to the award of the Paris Tribunal

of Arbitration, reenacts the provisions of the award and provides a penalty for persons and forfeiture of vessels engaged in contravention of said act.

There is no clause in this act, however, similar to that in the American act (Apr. 6, 1894, sec. 10, 28 Stat., 53) under which a vessel found in prohibited waters, or with prohibited implements, shall be presumed guilty until it is otherwise sufficiently proved.

With respect to British subjects and vessels, American seizing officers obtain their authority from the British act. In like manner, British seizing officers obtain their authority to seize American vessels and citizens from the American act. The British act cited gives to American seizing officers such powers only as are exercised under that act by British officers.

It follows that neither British nor American seizing officers have the power under the British Bering Sea award act cited to seize a British vessel merely because she may be found within the award area with skins aboard or implements used for sealing. They must find, before seizing her, such evidence as would tend to show that she had been violating the law by engaging in unlawful sealing, or being about to so engage, while within this area.

In other words, under the British act, it is not unlawful for a British vessel to be found within a prohibited area, or during a closed season with sealskins or sealing paraphernalia aboard, provided there is no other evidence to show that these skins were taken, or implements used, in violation of law. Instructions to American officers with respect to British vessels, necessarily must conform to this act.

The instructions of 1908, furnished to revenue-cutter officers, as to the treatment of British vessels within the award area, in my opinion, are not objectionable in view of the law on the subject.

The omission from these instructions, however, of any order to investigate the alleged sealing by British schooners on the northwest coast after May 1 is regretted in view of the fact that a British schooner was seized last year by a cutter under this same instruction, which schooner was afterwards condemned for the offense. There is a strong probability that others may be similarly engaged this year. Outside of this, the deterrent effect of the presence of an American patrol vessel along the coast, searching for violations of a law common to both nations is excellent. In may judgment, the instructions to cutters for 1908 should continue this coast patrol practically as it was in 1907.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

MAY 4, 1908.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 20, 1908.

WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.:

Navy Department will send gunboat as recommended by you.

OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "PERRY,"
Unalaska, Alaska, May 30, 1908

Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: 1. In accordance with the instructions contained in department letter (W. G. R.) of the 5th instant to follow the coast line as far as may be practicable for the purpose of investigating the report that the Canadian sealers do not cease sailing on the coast May 1, I would respectfully report that no Canadian sealers were sighted during the entire passage to this place. I made inquiry at Sitka, Yakutat, Port Etches, Seward, and Karluk, but did not learn of any such vessels being sighted after May 1.

2. On the 24th instant this vessel passed the Japanese sealing schooner *Hoan Maru*, of Tokyo, with her boats down and engaged in sealing. The nearest point of land from this sealer was Cape St. Elias, west 16 miles.

3. At Sitka the United States marshal informed me that during the early part of the month natives brought in the report that two Japanese sealers were off that port, and that they had landed men to hunt deer. One of these schooners is said to have landed three Japanese men on one of the harbor islands for the purpose of entering the United States in violation of the immigration laws. It is said that the names of these two vessels are *Koama Maru* and the *Toyei Maru III.* I could not obtain any reliable information as to these circumstances.

4. At Yakutat I learned from the storekeeper (a white man) that on April 18 the *Kaise Maru* entered that harbor for wood and water, leaving again on the 23d of that month. The same vessel again entered that harbor on April 29 during a southeast gale, and left again on May 2, apparently bound to the southward. The vessel carried a Japanese crew and one white man, and had not caught any seals to date.

Also, that on the 10th instant the Japanese schooner *Matsu Maru* called in to make repairs to her rudder; she left again on the 19th instant, also bound to the southward. She had 20 skins on board. She also carried a Japanese crew and one white man.

Men from both these vessels came on shore and traded with the natives, but were well behaved in every respect and made no attempt to hunt.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. J. HAAKE,
Lieutenant, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 2, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith extract of a report dated May 27 last, from Capt. A. J. Henderson, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding United States revenue cutter *Thetis*, in relation to vessels engaged in fur-seal fishing.

Respectfully,

BEEKMAN WINTHROP,
Acting Secretary.

[Extract.]

UNITED STATES STEAMER "THETIS,"
Unalaska, Alaska, May 27, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to notify the department that the *Thetis* arrived at this place at 5.05 p. m., this date.

No British sealing schooners were seen en route north, and inquiries made of natives engaged in sealing operations in the vicinity of Sitka, Alaska, developed the fact that no such vessels had been seen by them. They reported, however, that four Japanese vessels were engaged in sealing to the westward of Sitka. These vessels were subsequently sighted off the Fairweather grounds to the eastward of Yakutat Bay. Two of them were boarded and examined, a third one was spoken, but not boarded, owing to the heavy sea prevailing at the time, while the fourth one was lost in the fog and haze.

These four vessels were the only ones seen en route north, and the weather was such that they had no boats lowered.

* * * * * * *

Respectfully,

A. J. HENDERSON,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 15, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a report from Senior Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, dated Unalaska, Alaska, June 20, 1908, in relation to the operations of the Bering Sea patrol fleet from June 8 to 20.

Respectfully,

BEEKMAN WINTHROP,
Acting Secretary.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Unalaska, Alaska, June 20, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of operations of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet from June 8 to June 20, viz:

June 5. The *Perry* sailed to take station at Pribilof Islands.

June 9. The *Bear* sailed for the Pribilof Islands. *Thetis* sailed for the north.

June 10. The *Rush* left for the islands to relieve the *Perry*.

June 13. The *Perry* arrived in port; had her return to make the Attu trip.

June 14. *McCulloch* left port for the islands; I took passage, intending to visit the agents of the islands. On our way north visited the Bogoslof Island; found great changes since last year; Perry Peak entirely covered, and several additional islands on the south side; full report and photographs on return of the *McCulloch*.

June 16. Visited the agent on St. Paul, who informed me they had the rapid-fire guns mounted and crew drilled, and thought themselves able to defend the rookeries. At this date no sealing vessels have been seen about the island, and but few seals had appeared on the rookeries.

The ice left the island May 30, but the water is still very cold (33°), indicating that the ice is not very far away; the cold water is also thought to be the cause for the presence of so few seals.

June 16. Left the island on the *Rush*. *Perry* left port for a cruise to Attu.

June 17. Returned to port on the *Rush*. Had the *Rush* return for coal, to return to the islands June 20, so that there will be two vessels at the islands.

June 19. North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Grace Dollar* arrived in from the islands.

Japanese sealer *Toyei Maru* arrived in; had been sealing in the Pacific Ocean; had 206 sealskins; had 6 white men in crew of 42.

June 20. *Rush* left port for the islands.

Japanese sealing schooner left port.

North American Commercial Co.'s schooner leaving to-day; this letter goes out on her.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. M. MUNGER,
Senior Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "BEAR,"
Village Cove, St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 22, 1908.

Senior Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Patrol Fleet,
Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have this day seized the Japanese sealing schooner *Saikai Maru*, of Hakodate, and the *No. 2*

Kinsai Maru, of Tokyo, both for illegal sealing within the territorial limit of 3 miles.

Early this morning, being at anchor at the south side of Northeast Point of St. Paul Island, near the salt house, a great many shotgun reports were heard to the northward and eastward and apparently not far away. At the time there were very light airs from the northward to calm, and the weather was misty and partly foggy, meaning by the latter term that the fog was in layers and patches, with occasional clear spaces. In toward shore the end of Northeast Point could be seen and also the land to about three-quarters of the distance to Polovina Point. At 5.10 got under way and steamed east by north, intending to steam out until we could turn northward around the shoals, in which direction the shots were being heard frequently. At 5.20 a passing clear place in the fog showed a schooner bearing north-northeast, magnetic. Kept on our course, not being able to haul to the northward as yet. At 5.28 sighted a rowboat on starboard bow and rowing rapidly in the direction of the schooner. Stood southeast by south for this boat and at 5.37 stopped alongside her. The position of the boat was as follows: North end of Walrus Island E. $\frac{5}{8}$ S., magnetic; Northeast Point NW. $\frac{5}{8}$ W., magnetic, distant 3 miles; nearest land, being the point south of Northeast Point, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant.

The boat contained a crew of three Japanese, guns, ammunition, provisions, water, and necessary boat gear, together with one fresh female sealskin (removed from the body) and one unskinned seal, the latter being a female not yet quite dead and bleeding from wounds in the region of the head. The boat belonged to the *Saikai Maru*, of Hakodate. Took the crew on board and the boat in tow, and at 5.43 stood north by east for the above-mentioned schooner.

By this time the fog had cleared somewhat and several schooners were seen in various directions, and many small boats offshore and inshore of them, shooting being continually heard. Only two of the schooners were apparently within the limit, one of which was the one we were heading for. As soon as we headed in this direction this schooner made all sail and attempted to work offshore to the eastward. Her boats were all inside of her save one, which was offshore. The other boats in view soon started back to their respective ships. At 6 stopped alongside the nearest schooner and found her to be the *Saikai Maru*, of Hakodate, whose boat we had just seized. The position of the *Saikai Maru* was as follows: Northeast Point W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S., magnetic; south end of Walrus Island SE. $\frac{5}{8}$ E., magnetic; nearest land, being south point of Northeast Point, distant 2.6 miles.

As she was inside the limit and had some of her boats farther inshore, and one of these boats had just been taken with freshly killed seal, sent Lieut. Alexander on board with three men, all armed, to seize her and remain hove to until the *Bear* could investigate the case of the other schooner.

At 6.06 steamed ahead for the other schooner that appeared to be inside the limit. She was now under all sail, standing to the eastward, and in addition had several of her boats towing her. She had recalled all her boats and made sail about the time we headed up for the *Saikai Maru*. Blew several blasts on the steam whistle for her to heave to, but she paid no attention. Then fired a blank shot from the forward gun, whereupon she called in her boats and hauled down her head sails. At 6.23 stopped abreast this schooner

and found her to be the *No. 2 Kinsai Maru*, of Tokyo, and her position was as follows: Tangent Northeast Point southwest by west, ¾ west, magnetic; and tangent Walrus Island, southeast, magnetic; being 2⅜ miles from Northeast Point.

Sent Lieuts. Hinckley and Weightman aboard. Her boats were alongside. No sealskins nor carcasses were in them, but there was fresh blood in several of the boats. As she was within the limit and several of her boats were still farther inshore sealing, and several of her boats showed they had been sealing, by the fresh blood, the vessel was seized and an officer and three men left on board, all armed. Took her in tow, turned and stood back to the *Saikai Maru* and took her also in tow and steamed to the southward and around to Village Cove. There was a warrant officer and three men on board the *Kensei Maru* and an officer and three men on board the *Saikai Maru*, all armed.

After anchoring, sent Lieuts. Hinckley and Alexander on board the *Saikai Maru*, and all skins were examined and counted, and all the arms and ship's papers were examined and marked for identification. The ship's papers and the arms were brought on board the *Bear*. The same duties were performed on board the *Kinsai Maru* by Lieuts. Hinckley and Weightman.

In the meantime, the captured small boat belonging to the *Saikai Maru* was hoisted on board and the contents catalogued. The seal was skinned, and this skin and the other skin found in the boat were salted and sealed in a package. The three men comprising the crew of this boat were retained on board, and will be confined this night.

This evening the *Rush* returned from a trip to St. George and anchored at Village Cove. Her commanding officer came on board and I arranged for him to take the two vessels to Unalaska and deliver same to you. As he informs me his coal supply is getting low, I have directed him to leave to-morrow morning, not deeming it wise for these two schooners to remain here any longer than necessary. I will turn over to the commanding officer of the *Rush* all papers, persons, articles, and so forth, in connection with these seizures. As the complement of the *Rush* is small, I have detailed Lieut. Weightman, Gunner Gold, and two men as prize crew for the *Kinsai Maru*.

I have given the master of each of the seized schooners a certified list of the papers brought on board the *Bear*, and also a list of the arms, and I will deliver copies also to the commanding officer of the *Rush*.

I also inclose letters addressed to me by Lieuts. Hinckley, Alexander, and Weightman, said letters bearing on the matter of evidence.

I would also state that the run of the *Bear* by her patent log, from her position at anchor to the place where the small boat was seized, coincides with the cross bearings for that same position. From this position to the two positions where the *Saikai Maru* and the *Kinsai Maru* were seized, the log does not give exactly the same positions as the cross bearings, but the positions by log run, as well as the positions by cross bearings, place these vessels inside the 3-mile limit.

Respectfully, (Signed) E. P. BERTHOLF,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 25, 1908.

SIR: The following is a copy of a telegram received from the commanding officer of the U. S. S. *Yorktown*, dated the 24th instant, sent from Safety, Alaska:

Now off Yukon River. Five Japanese schooners sealing in the vicinity of St. Paul. Situation quiet. Will return here about August 6 to report.
(Signed) GLENNON.

Very respectfully,

N. E. MASON,
Acting Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 30, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a report dated the 8th ultimo from Senior Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Fleet, of the operations of that fleet from May 16 to that date.

Respectfully,

BEEKMAN WINTHROP,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Unalaska, Alaska, June 8, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report on matters relating to operations of the Bering Sea Fleet:

On May 13 I took passage on the *Arcata* to Victoria; called on the United States consul and collector of customs; obtained from the latter a list of Victoria sealing schooners that had been licensed for operation in Bering Sea for the season of 1908; only 6 vessels had obtained licenses, and one of them, the *Ella G.*, had been lost at sea, leaving but 5 vessels of the Victoria fleet.

No official information could be obtained of the number of Victoria sealing vessels under Japanese flag; the following-named vessels are known to be under the command of Canadians, viz:

Kinsie Maru, Capt. Retchie; she has two Victoria hunters, Ned Burke and Bill Williams; *Autoka Maru*, Capt. Thompson; *Toyoi Maru*, Capt. Jacobson; *Matsu Maru* has Fred Cochran as chief hunter.

The *Toyoi Maru* was one of the vessels engaged in the raid on Zapadni rookery, St. Paul Island, in 1906; she has two Victoria hunters on board, Edward McNeil and Edward Harris. Capt. Thompson, of the *Autoka Maru*, was on the schooner *Houkausia Maru* when sunk by the Russian cruiser *Gromovi*, and was arrested for illegal sealing.

The *Perry* was delayed at Port Townsend one day to obtain stores sent from San Francisco; we left port May 16, and arrived at Sitka May 20. Received department telegram relating to the use of coal from storehouse there; advised commanding officers of the *Bear*, *McCulloch*, *Rush*, and *Thetis* of the order.

Interviewed the marshal at Sitka regarding the Japanese sealers said to be violating the law, but obtained no other information than that already in possession of the department. A Japanese schooner is said to have landed four Japanese on one of the outlying islands; these men were in charge of the United States immigrant inspector; could obtain no positive information as to the names of the vessels referred to above.

Capt. D. F. A. de Otte reports having received information at Yakatat of a Japanese sealing schooner visiting that port and reporting loss of a boat with four men, possibly some connection with the above case.

After leaving Sitka we kept within 20 miles of the shore, and arrived at Unalaska May 30; saw but one vessel, a Japanese sealer, about 16 miles west of Cape St. Elias; visited Yakatat, Port Etches, Seward, Karluk, and Alitak Bay; no vessels at any of the places visited.

At my request Capt. Haake visited Seward that I might interview Assistant United States District Attorney Ray; he wired for authority to accompany us to Unalaska and obtained permission, but just before sailing received a wire from the marshal at Valdez of a murder and trouble at Cordovia, which made it impossible for Mr. Ray to leave at that time.

First Lieut. of Engineers J. H. Chalker, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, reported May 11, and accompanied me on the *Perry*, as also Ship's Writer F. V. McClung.

The *Thetis* was in port on my arrival; the *Bear* and *Rush* arrived June 3; *Rush* had rudder quadrant broken; had it repaired at Dutch Harbor. *Perry* left for the islands June 5; *Bear* leaves for the islands June 9; *Rush*, June 10. *McCulloch* not here.

For detail account of operations of the *Perry* on the cruise I inclose copy of Capt. Haake's report.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. M. MUNGER,
Senior Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "BEAR,"
Unalaska, Alaska, July 30, 1908.

Senior Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival of the *Bear* at this port at 9.20 p. m. to-day, all on board being well.

In accordance with your order of the 14th instant, the *Bear* left Unalaska at 9 a. m. of the 17th and proceeded to St. Paul Island, arriving there at 7.20 p. m. of the 18th.

The 19th instant, cruised around the island. Sighted 15 sail to the southward and westward and 5 sail to northward and eastward, all hull down, no small boats being in sight.

The 20th, remained at anchor at Village Cove, having received information from the shore that no vessels were in sight from the island.

On the 21st instant, got under way with the intention of making a cruise around the island to the westward. Sighted six sail to the southward and westward, hull down, and several small boats, all outside the limit. At 2.20 p. m., fog shutting in thick, returned to anchorage at Village Cove. In the afternoon communicated with the shore and found that the special agent had no news to impart.

At 12.30 a. m., July 22d, Special Agent Judge come on board to inform the commanding officer that one of the native guards had just arrived from Northeast Point and reported a raid having taken place there at 10 p. m. the day before. The telephone system being out of order, this native had run from Northeast Point to the village with the news. Special Agent Lembkey had left the village with a force of four natives and proceeded to Northeast Point immediately upon receipt of this news, and Mr. Judge at the same time came to notify the *Bear*.

At 12.55, got under way and steamed to the eastward for Northeast Point. The weather being quite foggy, the vessel was obliged to proceed with caution. At 4.10 a. m., anchored on the south side of Northeast Point and sent Lieuts. Hinckley and Alexander ashore with an armed boat's crew to investigate. At 5 a. m. the boat returned with the report that Special Agent Lembkey had arrived at Northeast Point a short time before the *Bear* anchored and ascertained that the reported raid was without foundation; that the native who brought word to the village had been frightened without cause.

* * * * * * *

To my mind, the incident of the reported raid on the night of the 21st illustrates the ease with which a raid can be made on St. Paul, due to the inadequate guard at the rookeries, and I deem it my duty to bring the matter to your notice. There is telephone communication between Northeast Point and the village and between Zapadni and the village, and a small guard of natives is maintained at each of these points—the guard at Northeast Point consisting of four natives. These four men could not prevent the landing of three or four boats, especially if thick weather permitted the boats to get close to the shore before they were discovered. If the telephone is working, a message to the village will bring assistance, of course, but as this assistance must travel 12 miles to get to Northeast Point, it would give the raiders at least two hours in which to work their will on the seals and depart. If the telephone is not working, it means that a messenger must run to the village to give the alarm, and this means still further delay.

On the night of the 21st instant, one of the four natives on guard at Northeast Point thought he saw several strange men who had landed, and the telephone being out of order, he ran to the village to give the alarm. He left Northeast Point at 10 p. m. and, being frightened, he covered the 12 miles to the village in an hour and a quarter. Special Agent Lembkey started for Northeast Point with

reinforcements as soon as possible, but did not reach there until 3.45 a. m. Also, as soon as the messenger reached the village, Special Agent Judge proceeded to notify the *Bear*, but, the weather being foggy, the *Bear* was obliged to proceed with caution and could not reach Northeast Point before 4 a. m.

Now, had there really been a raid at 10 p. m. of the 21st, the raiders would have been practically undisturbed between 10 p. m. and 3.45 a. m. Thus they would have had five and three-quarters hours in which to slaughter seals, skin them, and depart.

In addition, when there happens to be only one vessel at the island, as was the case on the night of the 21st, she, of course, can be at but one place. If she anchors at Northeast Point, then the Zapadni or Tolstoi rookery is open to raids at foggy times, and I understand that at the Tolstoi rookery there is no guard. If the vessel anchors at Village Cove, or in the vicinity, in order to protect the southern rookery, then the rookeries at Northeast Point are open to raid. The situation is still further complicated by the fact that, although the vessel can be communicated with by boat at Village Cove if darkness or foggy weather prevents signals, she can not be communicated with if anchored at Northeast Point, for there they have neither boats nor signals. Of course, the reported raid on the night of the 21st was a myth, but the foregoing is cited to show how very little there is to prevent a raid if several boats from the sealing fleet are so minded.

From my observations thus far, I do not believe there has been any preconcerted attempt to engage in sealing operations within the prescribed limits, but when the weather is thick, it is difficult to ascertain one's exact position, and when several schooners or their boats happen to find themselves close to the limit when the fog clears, and the same clearing of the fog disclosed no cutter near by, undoubtedly they embrace the opportunity and pursue their sealing operations as close to the rookeries as possible. The continued presence of a vessel in the vicinity of Northeast Point and in the vicinity of Village Cove would act as a great deterrant to any operations within the prescribed limits on the part of the sealing fleet. It is suggested that a vessel stationed at Village Cove and required to remain in that vicinity and another vessel stationed at Northeast Point and required to remain in that vicinity, together with an adequate guard at both Northeast Point and Zapadni, would furnish the necessary protection. The guard would be able to prevent any boats from landing when it was too foggy, or too dark for the vessel to see what was going on, and the vessels being near by would prevent operations within the 3-mile limit. Of course, a vessel can not remain at Northeast Point nor yet at Village Cove during all kinds of weather, but when the weather prevents a vessel from anchoring at either of these points, no boats can land; therefore no raids nor sealing within the limit need be apprehended.

In referring to a guard on the island I mean officers and men landed from the fleet for this purpose. I understand that the reason that the native guard at present maintained at the rookeries is so small is because, up to the end of July, the services of as many men as can be obtained are needed for the almost daily drives and killings. Landing a sufficient number of officers and men from the fleet will overcome this condition, and undoubtedly the knowledge of a regular

service guard on the island would have a greater effect on the sealing fleet than would a native guard. All of which is respectively submitted for your consideration.

Respectfully,

E. P. BERTHOLF,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, August 11, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information extract of a report dated the 19th ultimo from Senior Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, in relation to certain Japanese schooners supposed to be engaged in fur-seal fishing.

Respectfully,

BEEKMAN WINTHROP.
Acting Secretary.

[Extracts.]

UNALASKA, ALASKA, *July 19, 1908.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of operations of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, from June 21 to July 19, viz:

June 21, Japanese schooner *Tpyki Maru No. 2* arrived in port; has a crew of 30 men, 3 white.

June 22, Japanese schooner *Toka Maru* arrived in port, crew of 30 men, all Japanese.

June 23, Japanese schooner *Nitto Maru* arrived in port, crew of 32 men, 2 white. This is the vessel seized last year by the *Manning*, same captain.

June 24, *Bear* returned; towed in whaling schooner *Rosie H.;* found her becalmed outside of the head; 56 days from San Francisco. *Bear* reports having boarded two Japanese schooners; also very few vessels about the islands.

All Japanese vessels left port.

* * * * * * *

Japanese sealing schooner *Kinsei Maru* arrived in; crew of 30 men; captain, Canadian, and crew of mixed nationality; this vessel has changed her rig to a topsail schooner, and painted hull white.

* * * * * * *

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. M. MUNGER,
Senior Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, August 15, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a telegram received this date from Senior Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, reporting the seizure of certain Japanese schooners within the territorial waters near St. Paul Island.

Respectfully,

L. A. COOLIDGE,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy.]

UNALASKA, ALASKA, *August 14, 1908.*
(Via Seward, Alaska; via Seattle.)

SECRETARY TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.:

July 22 *Bear* seized Japanese schooners *Two Kinsei Maru* (32 men), *Saikai Maru* (27 men), sealing territorial waters, near St. Paul; evidence sufficient; no district attorney; no commissioner here. *Bear* sails August 2 to take marshal and prisoners before commissioner's court at Unga for commitment October term court.

MUNGER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, August 15, 1908.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith for your information the substance of a telegram received this date from the U. S. S. *Yorktown*, now cruising in Bering Sea, dated Unalaska, August 4, via Sitka, August 14:

Unalaska, fourth, overhauling boilers; will proceed soon as practicable Port Safety; for communication address telegrams there. Sixteen Japanese schooners known off Pribilofs; 2 captured within 3 miles by revenue service; two British sealers thus far seen outside limits. No British war vessels yet arrived.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

J. E. PILLSBURY,
Acting Secretary.

The honorable SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, September 4, 1908.

SIR: The following is a copy of a telegram received from the commanding officer of the U. S. S. *Yorktown*, dated the 1st instant, sent from Valdez, Alaska:

Conditions Pribilofs quiet; Japanese sealers have mostly left for Japan; few British sealers well outside limit; British gunboat *Algerine* arrived Unalaska August 11, leaves for Esquimalt September 2.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Very respectfully,

V. H. METCALF,
Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "BEAR,"
Unalaska, Alaska, September 4, 1908.

Senior Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival of the *Bear* at this port to-day at 6.10 p. m., all being well on board.

* * * * * * *

Referring to that portion of my report of July 30, wherein is shown the advisability of having a vessel always in the immediate neighborhood of Northeast Point of St. Paul Island, I desire to respectfully add the following:

Notwithstanding the vigilance and activity of the several vessels on patrol, my observation leads me to believe that the seal islands, and St. Paul in particular, are not and can not be properly protected against marauding on the part of the sealing fleet without maintaining a guard on shore at Northeast Point. The necessity for maintaining a guard at Northeast Point is well understood by the representatives on the island, and the special agent in charge does maintain a guard of 4 natives at Northeast Point from the beginning of the season and for a portion of the season a guard of 1 or 2 men at Zapadni Point. But these 4 men at Northeast Point and the 2 men at Zapadni are more in the nature of watchmen than guards. They patrol the shore line in the vicinity of the rookeries and hauling grounds at night and during fog and give notice to the village by phone of any encroachment by the boats from the sealing fleet. These 4 natives, however, can not be expected to be, and never have been, able to ward off any attempted raid on the rookeries without assistance.

Unless a raid is attempted while the force from the village are killing at Northeast Point, the guard of 4 men can get assistance only by telephoning to the village. The village being 12 miles distant and the road being poor, it requires some time for assistance to get to Northeast Point, and, during this period, a marauding party could very well work its will and get away. In addition, it must be borne in mind that the skins taken at Northeast Point during the killing season are stored in the salt house there until the company's steamer comes up in August, and consequently this salt house, containing thousands of sealskins ready for transportation, is protected by 4 natives only, who can get no assistance within two hours at the least. The result of a raid by several boats under cover of fog or night can be readily predicted. The fact that no raid has been made this season is no reason to suppose that none will be made in following seasons.

Naturally a raid would not be made except under cover of fog or darkness. At such times there is no way in which the 4 native guards could get assistance from a cutter anchored at Northeast Point for the reason that there is no boat on the shore there. Therefore, if the cutter were anchored on one side of the point and several boats landed on the other side of the point under cover of fog or night, for the purpose of making a raid on the salt house or the rookeries, there would be no way of notifying the cutter that assistance was needed, and assistance would have to come by way of the village,

which is, as I have said, 12 miles away with a poor road. The 4 natives are armed, of course, and, in addition, there is a 1-pound fieldpiece at Hutchinson Hill at Northeast Point. This gun, however, is a mile distant from the watch house, where the guard spends its time when not patrolling. Sometimes the breechblock and box of ammunition are kept at the gun and sometimes at the watch house. This gun, although a mile distant from the watch house, is but a quarter of a mile from the beach. To keep the ammunition at the gun means that both gun and ammunition would be captured by a landing force in a few minutes unless the guard was at the gun. If the guard remained at the gun they would be a mile away from the telephone, while, if they remained at the watch house they would be a mile away from the gun. The presence of this gun and under these circumstances seems to fulfill no useful purpose.

Two years ago a raid was made at Northeast Point, which, although it was finally repulsed and several of the raiders killed, was not altogether unsuccessful, since a number of sealskins were taken off to the schooners. Furthermore, this raid was not repulsed by the native guard. It so happened that the force from the village had been killing the day before and had not all returned to the village. Even with this assistance being accidentally present, the raiders were able to make way with some skins and it is easy to conjecture what would have happened had only the four natives been at the point when the raid was made.

What is needed at Northeast Point is, of course, a guard. During the killing season on the island, more than 4 men can not be spared from the natives, and, in my judgment, a force of not less than 20 men, with an officer and warrant officer, should be landed for guard duty at Northeast Point on St. Paul Island during the pelagic sealing season. The rookeries on St. Paul Island, from Polovina around to Zapadni are all within easy reach of the village and can be protected from the village. If, however, any signs of danger were seen at Zapadni, a small portion of the 20 men could be sent there for guard duty. I learn there is an objection to such a guard, but it is not insurmountable.

During the killing season on the island, which is practically the months of June and July, it is necessary that the hauling grounds be as undisturbed as possible, as it is from these grounds the seals are driven to the killing ground. When the seals are disturbed those on the hauling ground are apt to take to the water, and under such circumstances it is difficult to obtain the quota of skins allowed for the season. The objection to the seaman guard is that, being unfamiliar with the habits of the seal, this guard, in patrolling, would disturb the seal and thus keep the hauling ground depleted. This objection can easily be remedied by maintaining, in addition to the 20 men from the cutters, the 4 natives now used as a guard and patrol, and causing a native to always accompany the seaman patrol to show how to pass the rookeries and hauling grounds without disturbing the seals. It appears also that the boats from the sealing fleet sometimes come close to the shore under cover of the fog, and by continuous firing endeavor to disturb the seal so that many extra seals having taken to the water the boats can then retreat outside the 3-mile limit and capture passing seals at their leisure. If the guard on shore fire at these boats they but add to

the disturbance of the seals and help to produce the result aimed at by the boats. The present native guard does sometimes fire at the boats, and should the seaman guard also fire at the boats their firing would disturb the seals no more than at present.

In addition to these 20 men being able to repulse any raid without waiting for assistance, it is undoubtedly a fact that the known presence of a military guard on the island would act as a strong deterrant against raids on the part of the pelagic sealing fleet.

With a guard on the island as outlined, and one vessel always in the immediate vicinity of Reef Point, there would be small chance of the pelagic fleet doing damage inside the 3-mile limit.

Respectfully,

E. P. BERTHOLF,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, September 10, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a report dated July 30, 1908, from Senior Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, in relation to the seizure by the revenue cutter *Bear*, on July 22, of the Japanese sealing schooners *Two Kinsai Maru* and *Saikai Maru;* also extracts from a report from that officer dated the 17th ultimo of the operations of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet from July 20 to August 17 last.

Respectfully,

J. B. REYNOLDS,
Acting Secretary.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Unalaska, Alaska, July 30, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Confirming my telegram this date as follows:

July 22 *Bear* seized Japanese schooners *Two Kinsei Maru* (32 men), *Saikai Maru* (27 men), sealing territorial waters, near St. Paul; evidence sufficient; no district attorney; no commissioner here. *Bear* sails August 2 to take marshal and prisoners before commissioner's court at Unga for commitment October term court.

I have the honor to report that the evidence seems sufficient to convict; I held the vessels; unbent sails; removed arms; took inventory; and turned them over to United States marshal. They will be sent before a commissioner's court at Unga.

The *Two Kinsei Maru* changed her rig, after coming into the sea, to a topsail schooner, and painted hull white; with quaker smokestack could be easily mistaken for the *Rush* or *Perry* in a fog about the islands; she has 6 Canadian hunters on board, several of whom have been implicated in previous raids on either the Pribilof or Commander Islands; the balance of her crew, 33 men, are of all

nationalities. This vessel appears to be leader in trespassing on territorial waters, as previous to her arrival the Japanese kept well away from the islands.

There being no district attorney or commissioner here, I will send the prisoners, 59 men, to Unga, the nearest court, on the *Bear*. She will sail from here on the 2d of August.

As soon as this case is settled, the commanding officer of the *Bear* will investigate reports of Japanese otter hunting and committing other lawless acts about the Shumagin group.

I inclose copy of Capt. Bertholf's report relating to seizures of Japanese schooners, also a copy of report of the United States commissioner at Unga relating to illegal acts of Japanese about the Shumagin group.

Respectfully,

F. M. MUNGER,
Senior Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Unalaska, Alaska, August 17, 1908.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of operations of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet from July 20 to August 17, viz:

July 20: *Perry* returned from cruise.

Received verbal information from deputy collector of customs that he had satisfactory evidence that Japanese were fishing on the Pacific side of Unalaska Island, probably in Kuliliak Bay.

July 24: *Perry* sailed for Kuliliak Bay to investigate the report of Japanese fishing there.

July 25: *Rush* returned with Japanese sealing schooners *2 Kinsei Maru* and *Saikai Maru* in tow, having been seized by the *Bear* July 22 for illegal sealing in territorial waters near St. Paul. Unbent vessels' sails and secured arms.

July 26: *Perry* returned after a thorough examination of the coast; found no evidence of Japanese fishing operations in Kuliliak Bay or elsewhere.

* * * * * * *

Placed Japanese schooners *2 Kinsei Maru* and *Saikai Maru* in charge of United States marshal; 2 Japanese sick, with nurse, placed in hospital; *Rush* issued rations for them.

* * * * * * *

August 2: *Bear* sailed for Unga with Japanese prisoners.

* * * * * * *

August 10: Schooner *Emma*, Benson, master, arrived in from Sannak with beef. Captain reports that 9 Japanese sealing schooners have been sealing and otter hunting about the Sannaks; that they went to Bering Sea about the middle of July; also that Emil Mobeck took away the Japanese deserter from the *Tokia Maru* and landed him at a fishing station at Cape Bankof.

* * * * * * *

Bear returned from Unga; Japanese prisoners committed for October term of court, and officers of *Bear* bonded to appear as witnesses at Valdez October 1. *Bear* brought back Mizusoma Rohmzayema, deserter from Japanese schooner *Tokia Maru*. The cruise of the *Bear* subject of a special report.

* * * * * * *

Respectfully,

F. M. MUNGER,
Senior Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

PART III. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO SUPPLIES.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Harrisburg, Pa., May 13, 1908.

CHIEF CLERK,
Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.:

Mail large red memorandum book in middle drawer my desk to me, Frisco, care company.

Haste.

LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

MAY 14, 1908.

MAY 15, 1908.

SIR: The mushroom anchor called for in your requisition for certain supplies for use on the Pribilof Islands not being obtainable in Washington in time for shipment, you are hereby authorized to purchase an anchor of this description for use at the islands mentioned, at a cost not to exceed 10 cents per pound.

Yours, very respectfully,

HERBERT KNOX SMITH,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Care of the North American Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
October 22, 1908.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause to be furnished to this bureau for official use the supplies specified below.

JAMES JUDGE,
Acting Chief of Bureau.

Approved.

W. R. B., *Acting Chief Clerk.*

Item No.	Quantity desired.	Articles.	Cost.
.....	2	Waste baskets	.....
251	1 dozen	Hard pencils, No. 3 American	$0.14
251	do	Soft pencils, No. 2 American	.14
328b	do	Erasers, typewriter, $0.245 a dozen	.25
321b	2 gross	No. 16 rubber bands, assorted, $0.085 a gross	.17
322b	do	No. 32 rubber bands, assorted, $0.20 a gross	.40
16	1 ream.	Heavy typewriter paper	.....
431	1	Brush for cleaning type	.....
436	1	Brush for cleaning machine	.....
.....	1	Remington card receiver	.....
		Put new seat in No. 1026 chair	.....
415d	1	Ribbon, record, 1⅛ inches wide, Paragon	.....
		Loan of Remington, No. 8, 19041	.....

Received the above October 29, 1908.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
San Francisco, Cal., June 30, 1908.

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

Have been requested to send the following telegram: Secretary Commerce and Labor: Stationery and other supplies requested for seal islands through Division of Supplies not received. Respectfully request same to be forwarded by company's steamer leaving San Francisco July 25, proximo.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

JULY 1, 1908.

1909.

Part I. Instructions to Agents and Agents' Reports.

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Office of the Chief Clerk,
Washington, January 5, 1909.

Commissioner of Fisheries,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Dear Sir: In compliance with the recent order of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, assigning to the Bureau of Fisheries the fur-seal agents of the department, together with their records, files, etc., I transmit herewith such correspondence, together with card index of same, as have remained a part of the chief clerk's files up to the present time. The remainder of the files are in the possession of the fur-seal agents themselves, and will accompany their other possessions as soon as physically transferred to your office.

In regard to records and files, I may also suggest that the Solicitor of the Department of Commerce and Labor has a considerable amount of information bearing on the legal aspect of the Fur-Seal Service, and while these papers are properly a part of his own files, yet they may be consulted at any time by officials engaged on this work.

Very truly, yours,

Frank H. Bowen,
Chief Clerk.

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, January 12, 1909.

Messrs. Barton W. Evermann, Walter I. Lembkey, Millard C. Marsh, James Judge, and A. B. Alexander,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen: You are hereby appointed a board, to be known as the fur-seal board, with Dr. Evermann as chairman, and as such you will take charge under my general direction of the administration and office routine of all matters pertaining to the fur-seal service recently transferred to this bureau by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

Within the scope of this service come all matters relating to the fur seals and blue foxes of the Pribilof Islands, the Government's relations to the company leasing the islands and to the natives, and all those functions usually regarded as the duties of the fur-seal agents.

It is my desire that this board and the individual members thereof give their best thought to the many questions involved to the end that the fur-seal service may be administered as intelligently and efficiently as possible.

Respectfully,

Geo. M. Bowers,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 12 last, containing my appointment as a member of the fur-seal board.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 26, 1909.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: It appears from the report of Agent Lembkey of the seal fisheries that the Government buildings on the seal islands are in imperative need of repairs. For instance, the Government house on St. Paul needs a new shingle roof and a number of heavy timbers to replace rotten sills and joists. The watch house at Zapadni is virtually uninhabitable, entailing hardship on the men required to live there while on guard duty. The coal house, a large building, requires a concrete floor. A small room is necessary to shelter the guns and ammunition from the rough winter weather.

Conditions equally bad—such as leaky roofs, rotten floors, and joists—are reported as existing in the Government buildings on St. George Island. The watch house at East rookery on that island needs extensive repairs.

These islands are completely isolated and without communication with any other land for about seven months of every year, and this during the inclement season when severe storms and high winds occur. The buildings are frame structures, 30 to 35 years old, and at present unfit to withstand the force of the tempests.

The accidents of any storm might bring about serious suffering and the destruction of important public records.

The sum of $3,000 is estimated as necessary for the materials requisite in making the repairs desired. All labor will be performed by the agents of this bureau and the natives and without cost to the Government.

In view of the conditions named, I have the honor to recommend that Congress be asked to make a special appropriation of $3,000 for repairs to public buildings on the Pribilof Islands.

Very respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 9, 1909.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In the matter of the application of F. M. Brown, attorney, for the remission of the fine imposed upon 32 members of the crew of the Japanese sealing schooner *Kinsei Maru No. 2*, and for discontinuance of the forfeiture proceedings instituted against said vessel for the illegal killing of fur seals in Bering Sea, I have the honor to inclose a memorandum prepared in this bureau covering the facts in the case.

From this it appears that the officers and men of the vessel mentioned were duly arrested for sealing within our territorial jurisdiction; that the vessel was seized within the 3-mile limit; that the parties were tried and found guilty in the United States court at Valdez, Alaska; that they have the right of appeal to the higher courts, but have not exercised it; and that in every respect they have been accorded the same treatment as would be given American citizens. It is further shown that the granting of the request of the petitioners would be greatly to the disadvantage of our sealing industry.

In view of all the facts I am satisfied that the granting of the relief sought would be prejudicial to the public service, and accordingly recommend that the application be denied.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 9, 1909.

[Memorandum to the Secretary. In re application for remission of fines imposed on 32 members of the crew of the sealing schooner *Kinsei Maru*, and discontinuance of libel proceedings against said vessel for unlawfully killing fur seals in the waters of Bering Sea in July, 1908.]

In his letter to the Secretary of the Treasury opposing the objects of the application mentioned above, United States District Attorney Crossley truly says:

> The object principally sought by the defendants is not so much to obtain remission of the fines and penalties imposed on the sealers, as to secure discontinuance of the proceedings which look to the forfeiture of the ship and her cargo.

The cargo consists of 416 sealskins, having an estimated value of over $9,000. The real culprits in all violations of the fur-seal laws in Bering Sea are the owners of the vessels and the captains thereof.

In their work of sealing the men on board must obey the captain, who in turn takes his orders from the owners. While the men caught violating our laws must be punished, it is evident that if the ship goes free the principal culprit has not suffered, and that nothing has been accomplished toward deterring the same or other vessels setting our laws at defiance in the future.

All Japanese vessels engaged in sealing in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands violate the laws of their own Government. They are

licensed for the home trade only, the northern and eastern limits of which are 50° north latitude and 160° east longitude. (Report of U. S. Consular Agent E. J. King, Hakodate, Jan. 26, 1909.)

No notice is taken by the Japanese authorities of infractions of this law by sealing schooners, so that in this respect the *Kinsei Maru* is no worse than other sealing vessels; but she has gained the reputation on the coasts of Alaska, as will appear herein, of being a terror to all defenseless people.

Last spring Simoneski Island, within the cruising ground of this vessel, was raided, the natives plundered, stock killed, and houses burned; but the poor natives were unable to identify the vessel. The vessels engaged in these practices stand off at sea, or remain sheltered from view while their boats go ashore to rob and destroy. The immense coast line of Alaska, with only the limited protection afforded by the few revenue cutters on duty there, is calculated to invite attack from these desperate characters, many of whom, as is the case of the *Kinsei Maru*, are white men sailing under the Japanese flag.

Capt. F. A. Haake, commanding revenue cutter *Perry*, reports under date of May 30, 1908, that the *Kinsei Maru* entered the harbor of Yakutat, April 18, ostensibly for wood and water, and remained five days; and on April 29 she again entered said harbor, remaining until May 2. The *Kinsei Maru* is one of the few sealing schooners which enter American ports with impunity for supplies which it is unlawful for Americans to sell sealing schooners. (See act Dec. 30, 1897.)

Only a few days before the capture of the *Kinsei Maru* Capt. Munger, always watchful and alert, sent word to the islands that the crew of this vessel was composed of desperate men, and for the native guard to keep a sharp lookout and not mistake this vessel for a cutter. In an official report of July 30, 1908, he says:

> The *2 Kinsei Maru* changed her rig after coming into the sea to a topsail schooner, and painted hull white; with quaker smokestack could be easily mistaken for the *Rush* or *Perry* in a fog about the islands; she has 6 Canadian hunters on board, several of whom have been implicated in previous raids on either the Pribilof or Commander Islands; the balance of her crew, 33 men, are of all nationalities. This vessel appears to be a leader in trespassing on territorial waters, as previous to her arrival the Japanese kept well away from the islands.

Mr. Lembkey, who was present at Northeast Point when the *Kinsei Maru* was captured, says on page 29 of his annual report for 1908:

> On July 22 the *Bear* made a midnight voyage to Northeast Point from the village, arriving there at 4 a. m. The morning was foggy, but rifts in the fog allowed inspection of the sea at intervals. At the time of her arrival at the point shotgun firing from small boats was so incessant as to sound like a battle being fought just offshore. The *Bear* found several schooners and a number of small boats all inside the limit shooting seals. She was able to capture two of the schooners, the *Saikai Maru* and the *Kinsei Maru*, both of which were towed to the village. * * *
>
> The *Saikai Maru* is the schooner that is reported to have raided the Pribilofs last year, obtaining 62 skins, * * * This year several boats from this vessel were seen to land on Walrus Island, almost immediately after she arrived in the sea. The *Kinsei Maru*, Capt. Richardson (Ritchie), probably has been more aggressive in approaching shore this summer than any other vessel in the fleet, and her master has been known to express contempt for the shore guard as well as for the cutter patrol. It is believed that no vessels in the fleet deserved capture more than the two taken by the *Bear*, and that their apprehension had a restraining effect upon the remainder of the fleet.

Supplementing what Mr. Crossley says on page 2 of his letter relative to the opportunities of the defendants for destroying the evidence of their having killed fur seals just off the seal rookeries, and intimating that the skins taken that morning were sent away in the boats that escaped capture, it is worthy of note:

(*a*) That on many occasions sealing boats have landed on the islands, none of which ever carried more than three men—a hunter, a rower, and the one who steers.

(*b*) That the two boats of the *Kinsei Maru* escaping capture carried four men each, and among the eight so escaping were Smith and Williams, the white hunters.

That these white men were capable of thinking quickly, of collecting the skins secured that morning, and escaping to another vessel, is most likely.

The evidence was ample to convict. Capt. Bertholf testified (p. 12 of transcript) that he found the vessel $2\frac{3}{8}$ miles from land; that three or four of the *Kinsei Maru's* boats were between the ship and shore; that he heard shooting from those boats; and that he saw a wounded seal coming from the direction of those boats.

Lieut. Hinkley of the *Bear* saw and heard firing from seven boats inshore of the *Kinsei Maru*, four of which belonged to her; no other boats were in that vicinity except the seven mentioned; he saw a wounded seal coming from the direction of those boats; saw fresh blood in two of the *Kinsei Maru's* boats; and he found two skins on board that were only new salted.

This damaging testimony was corroborated by other officers and men of the *Bear*, among whom was Coxswain Jacobson, who had spent five years as a sealer. He saw fresh red blood on the bottom of the *Kinsei Maru's* boat and also on the sides.

On rebuttal, the Government offered Dr. Hurley, surgeon on the *Bear*, who would have testified that the blood in the boats of the *Kinsei Maru* was fresh, but he was not permitted to give his evidence because the defense objected, and the court sustained the objection on technical grounds.

With the exception of H. Webb, who admitted shooting at one seal, none of the defendants admitted doing any shooting; none of them saw more than one seal, and some of them saw none, although they were out one hour that morning before being captured. Seals are thick in the water at that season. On the day before the capture, i. e., July 21, one of the *Kinsei Maru's* boats caught 11 seals. (See testimony of H. Webb, p. 64.)

It would indeed be surprising if eight boats manned with alert sealers should spend an hour close to the largest rookery on St. Paul without seeing or killing a seal. In the boats of the *Saikai*, captured just before the *Kinsei Maru*, the bodies and skins of several freshly killed seals were found. Owing to the suddenness of their surprise and capture, the latter lacked time in which to destroy evidence of their guilt.

The log of the *Kinsei Maru* showed 415 skins on board; but a careful count of the skins revealed a discrepancy of one skin between the log count and the actual count. The latter showed 416 skins. Now, how did this discrepancy arise? Is it not likely that the one skin in excess had been taken during the watch in which the vessel was captured, and before the log had been written? How else are

we to account for the presence of the extra skin? The log should be reliable; it is the record upon which every man is paid. It seems conclusive that the count of the log was the count made before sealing began in that morning's watch.

The officers and men in the boats of the *Kinsei Maru* witnessed the capture of the *Saikai*, and as the boats of both vessels were hunting at the same time in the same neighborhood, it is fair to presume that they not only killed the seals, but having a full hour in which to destroy evidence of their guilt, that they did so.

It must not be forgotten that the hunters of the *Kinsei Maru* are among the most expert in the fleet. At the time of the capture they had a larger catch than any other vessel in the sea. They had 416 skins, as compared with 276 on the *Saikai*. They had seven boats in the water in exactly the place from which the sound of firing came, and yet her men testified that they neither saw seals nor did any shooting. In the light of all the evidence, the jury could not do otherwise than disregard such testimony and return a verdict of guilty.

(1) The *Kinsei Maru* has gained among the natives of Alaska the name of "Terror."

(2) She changed her rig and painted her hull white to simulate a revenue cutter.

(3) Her crew, as is well known, is composed of desperate characters.

(4) She makes an American port the base of her lawless operations.

(5) She is a lawless rover of the sea and goes out to maraud and prey. She is far from engaging honestly in lawful business. She has been "caught in the act." Her crew have been given all the advantages that American citizens would have been accorded. They have been tried in the United States court, and an unprejudiced jury has found them guilty. If this vessel can not be held for her unlawful acts in territorial waters, no vessel can be so held. No man can read the evidence at that trial without being convinced that the officers, the men, the vessel—all were guilty. If they think themselves denied justice in the court where tried, higher courts are open for appeal.

In 1907, as before stated, one of these captured schooners, the *Saikai*, is reported as raiding one of our rookeries, getting away with 62 skins; and in 1908, another of the fleet raided Bering Island, securing 65 seal and 11 sea-otter skins. The crew of this vessel plundered the native village, destroying what they could not take away. The Commander Islands are, in fact, the scene of frequent violence and bloodshed from the lawless incursions of Japanese sealing vessels. Our Government is now confronted with like conditions of rapine and vandalism, unless we proceed without favor to mete out deserved punishment to those convicted of unlawful acts.

Hovering just outside the 3-mile limit, these craft are killing seals practically all the time within our territorial waters. They are shifty and untiring; the moment one of the cutters passes by, they seize the opportunity to come close to land, stampede the seals, and launch their work of carnage. If discovered and arrested, they throw overboard their sealskins, thereby destroying the evidence of their nefarious work, and claim they were unwittingly carried across the line by the tides and currents.

By the laws of their own country, they can not kill seals nearer than 30 miles from shore on the Japanese side; yet through the laxity of our methods of caring for our property, they, to all intents and purposes, do their sealing within our 3-mile limit.

To interfere with the punishment of these men, and with the proceedings for condemning this lawless and predatory craft, would be a practical abandonment of preventive measures; we might almost as well withdraw our patrol, call in our guards, and weakly admit our inability to keep and protect our interests.

Every consideration of justice, every rule of efficient administration, every instinct of national independence and conservation advise the enforcement of the court's judgment as to these men, and that the proceedings against the vessel shall go on unimpeded.

MARCH 24, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries of Alaska,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: Transmitted herewith is a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Waldemar Jochelson, leader of the ethnological department of the Russian Imperial Geographical Society, authorizing him to visit the island of St. Paul, for the purpose of making certain ethnological observations and taking cinematographic pictures of the seals. You are requested to render him such assistance in furtherance of these objects as may be consistent with the regulations governing the conduct of the sealing industry.

Respectfully,

WM. R. WHEELER,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
March 24, 1909.

Mr. WALDEMAR JOCHELSON,
Russian Imperial Geographical Society,
Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: Replying to your letter of February 1, permission is hereby given you to land on St. Paul Island of the Pribilof Group in July next, and to make ethnological observations, subject to the general regulations governing the island, and to take pictures of the seals, subject to the regulations prohibiting the taking of pictures of the operations of sealing. The agent in charge has been instructed to render you all the assistance consistent with the duties confided to him.

Respectfully,

WM. R. WHEELER,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, dated March 24 last, from Assistant Secretary Wheeler, inclosing a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Waldemar Jochelson, leader of the ethnological department of the Russian Imperial Geographical Society, authorizing him to visit the Pribilof Islands for the purpose of making certain investigations of seals.

In reply I have to state that I have been informed that Mr. Jochelson already has arrived in Unalaska, but will not visit the Pribilofs this year, as he intends making a journey to Attu.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 27, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Group, Alaska.

SIR: 1. *Assistant agents ordered to proceed to islands.*—Assistant Agents James Judge and Ezra W. Clark, who are now in Washington, D. C., will be instructed to proceed to the seal islands, Alaska, in time to reach there before the beginning of the coming sealing season and to report to you for instructions.

2. *Assignment of assistants.*—You will make such assignment of the assistant agents for the season's work as in your judgment will best subserve the interests of the service and the welfare of the native inhabitants, and will notify the department of your action in this regard.

3. *Agents to report to Washington.*—At the close of the sealing season, or as soon thereafter as feasible, Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester and yourself will return to Washington and report for duty at the department.

4. *Copies of contract inclosed.*—Inclosed herewith are copies of the contract between the United States and the North American Commercial Co., and it will be your duty and that of your assistants to see that its provisions are enforced and the rights of the Government and those of the lessee duly protected.

5. *Decision in event of difference.*—Should a difference of opinion arise at any time between yourself and the representatives of the company in respect to a matter of administration on the islands your decision must govern, but in all cases you should request the superintendent of the company to furnish a written statement of his views on the question involved. This statement should be transmitted to the department, with an expression of your own views, at the earliest practicable moment.

6. *Quota.*—If the condition of the herd will permit, the lessee may be allowed to take during the season of 1909 as many as 12,000 male seals of the proper age on the island of St. Paul and as many as 3,000 on the island of St. George, but not more than the number specified in either case; provided, however, that in case the number of male seals hauling on St. George Island is so greatly in excess of the number usually hauling there as to convince the Government agent in charge on St. George that there has been a material contemporaneous diminution in the number of male seals hauling on St. Paul Island, said agent in charge may, in his discretion, authorize the taking of a total of not to exceed 4,000 seals on St. George Island. This taking is, of course, to be subject to all the other requirements and limitations of these regulations. The numbers to which the quotas of the two islands are thus limited shall be inclusive of any skins accepted by the company from food drives made prior to the present sealing season. No seals shall be taken this season that have reached the age of 4 years (i. e., seals that have attained their fifth summer), nor shall any seals be taken that are under 2 years of age.

7. *Reservation of young males.*—In order to remove all doubt as to the reservation of a sufficient number of male seals for the perpetuation of the herd, you are instructed to release from among the best seals appearing in the first drives of the season not fewer than 1,000 3-year-old males and not fewer than 1,000 2-year-old males. Of the 3-year-olds and 2-year-olds to be reserved, 800 of each shall be released on the island of St. Paul and 200 of each on the island of St. George. The seals thus released are to be marked in such manner as will make them readily recognizable throughout the season, and under no circumstances are they to be taken by the lessee.

8. *Sizes of killable seals.*—No seals shall be killed having skins weighing less than 5 pounds nor more than 8½ pounds. Skins weighing less than 5 pounds or more than 8½ pounds shall be held at the islands subject to such instructions as may be furnished you hereafter by the department.

9. *Killing season.*—The killing season should begin as soon after the 1st of June as the rookeries are in condition for driving. Seals shall not be killed by the lessee later than July 31. The killing of pups for food for the natives or for any other purpose is not to be permitted.

10. *Seals for food.*—The number of seals to be killed by the natives for food for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1909, shall not exceed 1,700 on the island of St. Paul and 500 on the island of St. George, subject to the same limitations and restrictions as apply to the killing of seals by the company for its quota, except that the maximum weight for food skins shall not exceed 7 pounds. Care should be taken that no branded seals be killed in the drives for food.

11. *Driving.*—The representatives of the company on the islands should be required to give notice on the day preceding that on which they desire to make a drive of seals, stating the name of the rookery selected. The time, place, and manner of conducting all drives shall be subject to your approval. A representative of the Government should be present on the killing ground in each instance to superintend the killing. If at any time the methods employed in driving or killing appear in your judgment to be faulty or detrimental to the seal herd, you should see that such methods are immediately corrected, indicating to the representative of the company what changes are to be made.

12. *Killing grounds.*—As heretofore, you should establish on each of the islands killing grounds that can be reached by the shortest possible drive; provided, however, that such killing grounds must be at places sufficiently distant from the rookeries to prevent annoyance from the decaying carcasses.

13. *Acceptance of skins.*—In an opinion dated March 8, 1902, it was held by the Solicitor of the Treasury that the lessee has no right to reject any of the skins taken from the seals which it has selected for killing. You will therefore see that all such skins, regardless of condition, are accepted.

14. *Counting skins.*—All the sealskins should be carefully counted into the salt houses in the presence of the department agent and of the representative of the company, and a receipt, in duplicate, in the following form should be prepared and signed by said agent and by the representative of the company:

ST. ——— ISLAND,
———, *190—*.

We certify that there have been placed in salt in the salt house in our presence ——— sealskins.

———,
Agent, United States Department of Commerce and Labor.

———,
Agent, North American Commercial Co.

15. *Receipts for sealskins salted.*—The original of the above receipt should be retained by the department agent and the duplicate be given to the representative of the North American Commercial Co. At the close of the season, when the sealskins are again counted and shipped on board the company's steamer, the usual annual receipts should be signed by the captain of the steamer and the representative of the department.

16. *Trading in skins.*—The North American Commercial Co. has the exclusive privilege under its contract of taking sealskins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, and you should see that the company is protected in this right. Care should be taken to prevent the disposal of skins by the natives to any other company or to any person. All trading in sealskins by the natives is strictly prohibited, nor shall the natives be permitted to do any trading in fox skins.

17. *Measures to prevent shipment of skins by natives.*—To avoid the possibility of sealskins or fox skins being surreptitiously shipped from the islands, you are directed to continue the practice of examining all goods to be shipped by the natives, including baggage and personal effects, and where barrels, casks, boxes, or other receptacles are used, they should be closed under your supervision, after an examination of the contents, before being placed in the warehouse. Any skins found concealed in packages to be shipped by the natives should be seized and held, subject to instructions from the department.

18. *Census of seal herd.*—You are expected to make a thorough examination into the condition of the seal herd during the coming season, and to make a careful count of the number of breeding seals, male and female, on the islands, and also a computation as accurate as possible of the number of seals not breeding, including idle bulls, half bulls, bachelors, and virgin females. A careful enumeration should also be made of the pups found dead at the close of the season

and such information as can be had regarding the cause of death reported; provided, however, that in case the presence of pelagic schooners near the islands at any time during the summer should make it unwise to so disturb the rookeries by counting as to drive off the breeding seals into the water, yourself and the assistant agent in charge on St. George should use your discretion as to what further counts should be made, or whether counting should be discontinued altogether for the remainder of the season.

19. *Sealskins to be weighed.*—You are instructed to have the skins of the seals taken by the lessee during the coming season carefully weighed, and to keep a record of the weights for the information of the department. You should also weigh the skins of seals that are killed to supply food for the natives, and record the weights. The natives may be required to assist as far as practicable in the work of weighing.

20. *Care of the natives.*—The care and welfare of the natives should receive your close attention, and you are directed to see that the lessee performs all of the obligations of its contract toward such natives. You should ascertain the prices charged at the company's stores, compare them with the prices at San Francisco, and report any instances where the natives are compelled to pay unfair prices. You should also inspect the articles supplied as to quality and quantity, and if they are in any manner deficient you should report the fact to the department.

21. *Compensation to natives for taking skins.*—In view of the increase of the prices charged the natives on the seal islands for necessaries of life by the lessee, the latter has been informed that the compensation to be paid by the company for killing, salting, curing, bundling, and loading the sealskins on the company's steamers will be 75 cents for each skin instead of 50 cents a skin, as heretofore. The increase of 25 cents per skin is designed to meet the increased cost of necessaries of life on the islands. It is the purpose of the department to require that the prices of labor in the work of sealing by the natives shall be adjusted to meet, as far as may be, the increased cost of articles required for their subsistence. You are therefore directed to notify the department of any further increase in the prices of goods sold by the company to the natives. The money thus earned is to constitute a community fund for distribution among the natives according to their respective classes. At the close of the sealing season, after a conference with the native chiefs, you will make such division of the fund among the natives, according to their classification, as is deemed fair and just and submit a report of such division, showing the amount apportioned to each native participating in the fund. This report should be accompanied by an indorsement of approval from the native chiefs and a certificate from the company's agent that such funds have been credited to such natives on the books of the company.

22. *Payment of natives' earnings.*—The amounts that are earned from the company by the natives for labor other than sealing and foxing are to be paid to them in cash, and you will instruct the company's representatives accordingly. The funds earned from sealing and foxing, however, are to be disbursed on orders, as heretofore. The payment to the natives of money from the appropriation for their maintenance, upon the orders of the Government agent, is

strictly prohibited. Articles that do not properly come within the term "necessaries" should not be exposed for sale in the company's stores nor sold to the natives for the money they earn by labor.

23. *Support of natives.*—Congress has appropriated the sum of $19,500 "to enable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to furnish food, fuel, clothing, and other necessaries of life to the native inhabitants on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska." during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, and the greatest care and economy should be exercised in the expenditure of this appropriation. Articles of strict necessity only should be issued. No expensive dress goods, boots, or other articles are to be provided. Each of the natives should be restricted to one pair of dress shoes per year and each of the women to one good dress. Ginghams, calicoes, muslins, and similar inexpensive dress goods may be issued in reasonable quantities.

The supply of fuel for the use of the natives is paid for from this appropriation, and the cost of such fuel should not be overlooked in determining how much of the appropriation is available for other purposes. In the distribution of supplies, no distinction is to be made between persons without means and those having small savings from previous years.

You will continue the plan adopted under previous instructions, of issuing orders upon the company for such supplies as are required by the native inhabitants. At the end of the season, as heretofore, you will submit to the department the stubs of the orders given, payable from the appropriation, for use in verifying the accounts of the company.

24. *Coal supply.*—The North American Commercial Co. has agreed to furnish during the coming season for use on the islands 285 long tons of coal at $20 per ton, including delivery on the beach—185 tons to be delivered on St. Paul Island, and 100 tons on St. George Island. Coal, with the 80 tons additional that the company is required to furnish under the terms of its contract, will make available for all purposes a supply of 365 tons, and in its distribution the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George are to be included.

Of the 285 tons purchased from the company, you may make the following distribution:

	Tons.
St. Paul Island:	
For the Government house	15
For use of the natives	170
St. George Island:	
For the Government house	15
For use of the natives	85
Total	285

Of the 80 tons furnished by the company without charge under its contract, 50 tons may be distributed to the natives of St. Paul and 30 tons to the natives of St. George.

25. *Dwellings for natives.*—The agreement of the company in its contract to furnish the native inhabitants of the islands a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings and to keep such dwellings in proper repair should be strictly enforced.

26. *Schools for the natives.*—You will require the schools for the native children to be maintained from September 1 to May 1, and to

be open five days in each week, the school hours to be from 9 o'clock a. m. to 3 o'clock p. m., with an hour recess at noon, and 15 minutes' recess in the forenoon.

It will be your duty to see that the teachers appointed by the company are competent to teach the English language, and that they faithfully perform this duty. None but the English language shall be taught in the schools.

If parents of the children on the islands desire to send them to the Jessie Lee Home at Unalaska, the department has no objection, provided no expenditure of public money is involved in their transportation to Unalaska, or their maintenance and schooling while there. This course will also be permitted, under the same conditions, in the case of orphan children for whom provision is now made by the company under its contract.

27. *Widows, orphans, aged, and infirm.*—The company is required by its contract to provide the necessaries of life for the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands who are unable to provide for themselves, and you will see that this obligation is fully enforced. Widows and orphans having small sums of money to their credit should not be compelled to spend them and become wholly dependent before they are allowed to draw supplies under this provision in the company's contract. Such sums, as well as similar accounts held by other natives, may be drawn upon from time to time, however, with the consent and under the direction of the Government agent, for such reasonable articles as will contribute to the comfort of the persons possessing the funds.

28. *Natives to render service.*—In consideration of the support gratuitously afforded the natives by the Government, you are directed to utilize their services, when not required by the company, in repairing roads, guarding the rookeries, and performing such other duties as may seem desirable. This instruction is not to be regarded, however, as relieving the company from its obligation to employ the natives, at a fair and just compensation, for all such work as they are fitted to perform.

29. *Election of native chiefs.*—No interference should be permitted in the selection of their chiefs by the native inhabitants of the islands. If it should transpire, however, that persons manifestly unsuitable for the position are chosen, it will be your duty to interpose in the interest of good government and require the selection of proper persons, but such action should be taken only in extreme cases.

30. *Sale of intoxicants prohibited.*—The company agrees in its contract that it will not permit any of its agents to keep, sell, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors or opium on either of the islands or the waters adjacent thereto to any of the native inhabitants, such person not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as a medicine. This obligation is to be rigidly enforced.

31. *Manufacture of intoxicants prohibited.*—The brewing or distilling of intoxicating beverages on the islands is prohibited. In the enforcement of this provision you are authorized to discontinue the sale from the company's stores of sugar, or other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants, to any person who violates this order, or who is found to be intoxicated. Should intoxication become

so general among the people as to interfere with good government and jeopardize the peace, you are authorized to discontinue altogether the sale of sugar and of other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants for such length of time as may appear wise.

32. *Removal for cause.*—Should natives or other persons become so unruly or immoral in conduct as to endanger the peace and good government of the people, they should be removed from the islands, and the Revenue Cutter Service will be instructed to render such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose.

33. *Landing on the islands restricted.*—No persons other than Government officers, representatives, and employees of the North American Commercial Co., and duly accredited representatives of the Russian Church, shall be allowed to land on the islands except by written authority from the department. The permission granted representatives of the Russian Church to visit the islands may be suspended, however, when its exercise is attempted by an improper person. Visitors to the islands should not be permitted to inspect the rookeries, except under your supervision.

34. *Killing of sea lions to be limited.*—The preservation of the sea-lion rookeries on the islands is highly important. The killing of these animals should be limited to such numbers as are absolutely necessary in providing for the construction of bidarras or skin boats. Sea-lion pups should not be killed for any purpose.

35. *Information regarding affairs on the islands.*—No information regarding the seals, or any other matter pertaining to the seal islands, is to be given out by you or by any of the assistant agents. All applications for such information should be referred to the department.

36. *Conclusion.*—The maintenance of guards on isolated rookeries, to prevent illegal landings and raids, should be continued.

Should questions arise involving matters not covered by these instructions, it will be your duty to report the facts to the department and to await instructions, except in cases requiring immediate decision, when you will take such action as sound judgment dictates.

The instructions embodied in this letter are to remain in force until they are superseded by later ones, and in the event of your failure to receive revised instructions for a subsequent season the directions herein given are to be followed for such season so far as they are applicable.

Three additional copies of this letter are inclosed herewith, and you are directed to furnish one of these copies to each of the assistant agents for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Approved.

ORMSBY MCHARG,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th of March last, containing instructions for the management of the Alaskan fur-seal fisheries for the season of 1909.

From inquiries addressed to the respective assistant agents I have ascertained that each already has been furnished with copies of the instructions in question.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 29, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands,
St. Paul Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

SIR: The bureau desires to have on file, and in the most convenient form for reference, all published or otherwise available data regarding every matter essential or helpful to a thorough knowledge of the seal islands. It is understood, of course, that the records of your office here in Washington and at the islands contain a vast amount of data on various subjects pertaining to the islands. Doubtless many of these records are in excellent shape and can not be greatly improved upon. You are instructed to take up with the assistant agents the question of office records, with a view to their improvement in every way practicable. Among the matters which should receive special consideration are the following:

1. The form in which records should be kept to render them most serviceable and convenient for reference. The card catalogue system is becoming more generally used, and it is believed that you will find that system admirably adapted to many of the subjects in which you will wish to keep records.

2. The scope of subjects in which it is desirable that records be kept. Without entering into particulars, it may be said that any fact or observation relating in any way to fur seals, blue foxes, or any of the animals and plants of the islands, sealing, pelagic sealing, or in any way to the seal islands, which will contribute to our knowledge of those islands and the problems connected with them, is of importance and worth recording.

3. Completeness of present records. An effort should be made not only to assemble all available records on each particular subject but to complete the records by filling in the gaps whenever possible. It is probable that, on some subjects, no records have been systematically kept; the keeping of such records should now begin.

Among the subjects for which carefully prepared and complete card catalogue or other records are desired are the following:

1. Legislation. A complete record of all legislation pertaining in any way to the islands. This should be a subject catalogue and given in as much detail as possible.

2. Leases. These cards should show fully all leases, contracts, concessions, agreements or privileges given or entered into regarding the islands.

3. Russian control. Go into this historically and by subjects.

4. Literature. Card catalogue of every book, paper, article, report or other printed matter that has been published relating in any way to the islands, fur seals, blue foxes, walruses, or any of the animals and plants found there, together with a brief statement of the contents of the publication.

5. Card catalogue of all Government agents who have ever been on the islands, showing: (*a*) Name; (*b*) place from which appointed; (*c*) date of appointment; (*d*) official title; (*e*) salary; (*f*) service on islands; (*g*) reports made, stating whether published; (*h*) termination of service; (*i*) any other matters of interest or value.

6. Card catalogue of company agents, doctors, teachers, and of all others who have visited or landed upon the islands in any capacity, after same general plan.

7. Card catalogue of natives, giving essential data, as to sex, age, etc.

8. Card catalogue of rookeries, hauling grounds, etc., giving as full and accurate history of each as possible.

9. Seals killed each year from beginning, going into fullest detail.

10. Card catalogue of all species of animals and plants known from the islands. Each of these cards will supply a basis for additional observations on each species, new observations and facts being recorded on additional cards as required, so that all the cards under any one species will constitute a complete record of what is known about that species on the islands; and this record will be augmented by the record of new observations as made from time to time.

11. Card catalogue of all maps, charts, diagrams, photographs, drawings, or other illustrations relating to the islands.

12. Fur-seal commissions, etc., both American and British.

13. Appropriations, regular; special. These cards should also show expenditures under each appropriation, the specific purpose, and on whose voucher. Go into as much detail as seems desirable.

14. Receipts from leases, taxes, etc.

15. Value of skins.

16. Utilization of native animals and plants; cultivation. Card for each species used in any way, as for food, clothing, utensils, or for any other purpose, going into detail as to part utilized, time, manner, purpose, and extent, etc. This would include such matters as seal meat as food for man or foxes, other parts of seal for any purpose, birds and birds' eggs, the plant "poochka" (*Cœloplureum gmelini*) as food, sea-lion hides in boat construction, etc.

17. Industries engaged in by the natives, as basket making, mat making, boat building, etc.

18. Pelagic sealing data, as complete as possible. This is of vital importance.

19. Meteorology. All temperature, wind, rain, snow, fog, storm, and other meteorological data should be assembled and properly carded; and these records can be augmented by current observations.

20. Schools. All available statistics relating to school education should be compiled and properly classified. The bureau very much desires a full investigation and study of the general question of public education on the islands, particularly as to methods and results, and requests a detailed report thereon, together with suggestions and recommendations looking toward the improvement of the schools.

21. Branding—history, methods, results, etc.

22. Health conditions. This is a matter of importance and should be made a subject for special investigation and study by Assistant Agent Chichester, to whom detailed instructions will be furnished under separate cover.

The bureau desires that these various matters be taken up promptly and carried through as rapidly as possible consistent with your other duties. Much of this work can be done on the islands, especially during the winter when there will be little else to interrupt. Such portions as can best be done in Washington will be done by the agents who return here next fall.

After conferring with the assistant agents you will be able to assign the different subjects to those best qualified to handle them.

All cards and other records should be in duplicate, one set to be kept at the islands, the other for the Washington office.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Approved.

ORMSBY MCHARG,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 10, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 29 last regarding the collection into files of all data relating to the seal islands for convenient reference, and to say that I shall give the matter my attention.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

MARCH 30, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: Authority is hereby given for the travel of Assistant Agents James Judge and Ezra W. Clark from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands in the spring of 1909, and of yourself and Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester from the Pribilof Islands to Washington, D. C., in the fall of 1909, such travel to be by the most direct and usually traveled routes. If excess baggage is necessary for the

travel authorized, charges therefor may be included in amounts not to exceed $30 for each agent for the trip going out. On the return trip 100 pounds of excess baggage will be allowed, if actually necessary, and not to exceed 250 pounds may be transported as freight direct from the Pacific coast, through the Quartermaster's Department.

The actual necessary expenses of yourself and the assistant agents for board and lodging on the Pacific coast, not to exceed $5 per diem during such reasonable time as may be necessary for the transportation of official business pending your departure for Alaska, will be allowed. Your arrival on the Pacific coast should be so timed as to relieve the department of any charges for detention there for a longer period than required for the transaction of official business. This injunction applies as well to the stay on the Pacific coast of yourself and the assistant agents upon your return from Alaska en route to the department.

Respectfully,

ORMSBY MCHARG,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of department's letter of the 30th of March last, containing the usual authority for myself and the assistant agents to travel to and from the seal islands on official business.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 31, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: There is probably no other locality in America where questions of health and sanitation can be studied under such favorable conditions as at the seal islands. These islands are almost completely isolated from the rest of the world. The population is quite definitely fixed; there is practically no immigration, no emigration, and little visiting with other communities. The islands constitute a compact physical and biological unit, a compact health or sanitary unit. The conditions are so isolated and so bunched as to render their control and study comparatively easy. This is true not only as regards the native animals and plants of the islands, but it is true also of the people who have long been resident on the islands. The conditions for scientific study of many problems relating to the health and well-being of the various species of plants and animals (including man) found on the islands are therefore peculiarly favorable.

As Mr. Chichester has been studying medicine for several years, many of these problems will doubtless appeal to him as questions in which he would be especially interested and which would afford him a fine opportunity for doing some excellent and valuable original work. His knowledge of the nature of disease, of bacteriology, hygiene, and sanitation will enable him readily to appreciate the exceptional opportunity and to formulate the details of the methods to be employed.

The bureau therefore desires Mr. Chichester to take up the whole question of health on the seal islands and submits the following suggestions as to the scope and nature of the investigations which it wishes to have made:

HEALTH CONDITIONS ON THE SEAL ISLANDS.

Natives.—It is desired that a careful study be made of all the important conditions or factors bearing on the health of the natives. Many of the questions should be considered historically.

1. Housing: Character of houses as related to health; changes since first occupation, whether for the better or not; if present conditions are not what they should be, suggest improvements. Every house should be inspected with reference to sanitary conditions, including ventilation, light, heating, cleanliness, drainage, and general adaptability.

2. Clothing: In the past and now; whether suited to the climate, healthful, sanitary, adapted to the vocations of the people, etc.

3. Food: In the past and now; whether properly or adequately nutritious, and healthful; proper proportions of different kinds; properly prepared; etc.

4. Diseases: (*a*) Those brought to islands by first colonists; which of these have disappeared and which have persisted; work out as fully as possible the history of each. (*b*) Diseases brought to the islands since the first colonization; when, whence, and by whom brought, and history of each since introduction. (*c*) Diseases induced by local conditions, i. e., originating on the islands or whose history can not be traced, if there be any such. (*d*) Diseases to which natives are peculiarly subject; the relative importance of the various diseases as shown by number of deaths from each and by frequency and duration. (*e*) History of therapeutics or methods of treatment of each disease by the resident physicians, together with consideration of results. If possible, compile mortality tables for all who have died on the islands since first occupation, giving name, sex, age, date of death, and cause. This bears upon (*d*). (*f*) Relation of climate and of habits and occupations of natives to disease. This should be carefully investigated. (*g*) A health card should be prepared for each person on the islands. This will supply the basis for thorough and continuous study of these questions.

5. Parasites: A special study should be made of the intestinal and other parasites affecting the natives, and ample study material should be preserved.

6. Use of intoxicants: The strong desire for intoxicants possessed by the natives is well known, and the necessity for protecting them against this desire is recognized.

The whole question should receive most thorough study and thoughtful consideration—the origin of the taste for intoxicants;

whether this taste is growing stronger; whether the regulations now in force conduce to temperance among the natives, and if not, how they may be made more effective in that regard. A total of 265 gallons of various kinds of intoxicants has been requisitioned for the islands for the next fiscal year.

This would supply more than 3 gallons of intoxicants per year to every male over 16 years old on the islands; and if the instructions not to supply intoxicants of any kind to the natives be strictly complied with, as they should, the 265 gallons will supply 26.5 gallons annually to each white man on the islands.

You are instructed to give this matter very careful consideration and to make such recommendations as will, in your opinion, be to the best interests of the natives and the service.

Seals, foxes, etc.—There are many problems connected with the proper care and well-being of the animals of the islands, their relation to each other and to the natives, which should receive attention.

Among the subjects concerning which investigations are desired are the following:

1. Seals: (*a*) A thorough study of the *uncinaria,* the source and manner of infection; prevalence; conditions under which it thrives; other hosts, if any; effect on the seals; how this parasite may be exterminated or reduced or its injurious effects minimized. Is the *uncinaria* equally common on both islands and on all rookeries? If not, what are the conditions favorable to its development and how can those conditions be converted into unfavorable ones? It ought to be possible to exterminate this parasite, and it is hoped that everything possible may be done to bring about that result.

Give attention to such other parasites as the seals may have—their character, life histories, effects, and possiblity of reducing or exterminating.

2. Foxes: Similar study should be made of the parasites and diseases of the foxes.

3. Sea lions, etc: Similar study should be made of the parasites and diseases of the sea lion, lemming, shrew, etc.

4. Birds: Most species of birds have intestinal and dermal parasites. Some of them are injurious, others probably not. These should be collected and studied as opportunity affords.

It is desired that an effort be made to collect well-preserved and fully authenticated series of all the species of parasites affecting the animals named above and any other animals occurring on the island. An ample series of specimens showing as many stages as possible should be preserved. Care should be taken to use preservatives of the strength and character which will render the specimens most useful for histological purposes.

It is realized that this list of subjects or lines of inquiry is a rather formidable one, but it clearly shows how rich the field is and how great the opportunities are for making investigations, all of which are important and many of which are essential to a proper conduct of the service.

While it is intended that Mr. Chichester will be directly responsible to you and the bureau for the proper carrying out of these instructions, it is desired that he be given every assistance and facility for the proper conduct of the various investigations. Valuable assistance

can be given him by yourself and the other agents in connection with most of the lines of inquiry, particularly those pertaining to seals, foxes, etc.

All of the questions pertaining to the health and well-being of the natives will, it is believed, appeal to the resident physicians, who will doubtless be glad to cooperate with you in their investigation; indeed, it is not unlikely that the resident physicians may be anxious to take up certain of these investigations as their own particular problems. Such cooperation will certainly lead to results not only of interest and value to the medical profession, but of material benefit to the natives and the fur-seal service.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Approved.

ORMSBY MCHARG,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 31 last, relating to the compilation of various vital statistics and allied data of the native populations of St. Paul and St. George Islands.

In reply, I have to state that already I have conferred briefly with Mr. Chichester (to whom the duty was assigned) on the subject, and that he will devote so much of his time during the current summer as he may be able to spare from current duties to the collection and compilation of the data mentioned. I will cooperate with Mr. Chichester, who is stationed on St. George, in so far as I am able in compiling these statistics for St. Paul.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 11, 1909.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Inclosed please find copy of my letter of January 26, 1909, prepared by you and addressed to the North American Commercial Co.

In the letter of instructions to Chief Agent Lembkey, prepared by you, dated March 27, 1909, and signed by me and approved by the acting secretary, occur these paragraphs:

24. *Coal supply.*—The North American Commercial Company has agreed to furnish during the coming season for use on the islands 285 long tons of coal at $20 per ton, including delivery on the beach, 185 tons to be delivered on St. Paul Island and

100 tons on St. George Island. This coal, with the 80 tons additional that the company is required to furnish under the terms of its contract, will make available for all purposes a supply of 365 tons, and in its distribution the widows and orphans and aged and infirm inhabitants of the islands of St. Paul and St. George are to be included.

Of the 285 tons purchased from the company, you may make the following distribution:

	Tons.
St. Paul Island:	
For the Government house	15
For the use of the natives	170
St. George Island:	
For the Government house	15
For the use of the natives	85
Total	285

Of the 80 tons furnished by the company without charge under its contract, 50 tons may be distributed to the natives of St. Paul and 30 tons to the natives of St. George.

By the first letter it is intended that 200 tons of coal should be put on St. Paul Island for the natives. In this letter of instructions it is 170 tons. This office is unable to learn whether the latter is a clerical error or is meant to supersede the former. I have written to the North American Commercial Co., asking them to confer with you regarding this matter and to deliver only the 170 tons unless you are able to state to them that this is due to a clerical error and that the original designation of 200 tons will be required and should be delivered. This office is not able to decide this question and refers the matter to you for your decision.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 29, 1909.

[Memorandum to the commissioner.]

Your attention is called to the accompanying letter from Mr. James Judge, in which he states that the instructions of March 27 calling for 170 tons of coal for the seal islands was an error, and that he has made the necessary correction with the North American Commercial Co.

B. W. E.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., May 22, 1909.

Hon. GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Replying to your letter of the 11th instant, I have the honor to state that the amount of coal specified in your letter to the North American Commercial Co., January 26, 1909, viz, 200 tons, is the amount that will be required for the use of the natives on St. Paul Island during the coming fiscal year, and that the statement in the letter of instruction March 27, 1909, calling for 170 tons for this purpose, is a clerical error and was not intended to supersede the

former arrangement. I have therefore instructed the company to deliver 315 tons of contract coal on the island, 285 tons to be paid for from the appropriation "Supplies for native inhabitants of Alaska, 1909," and 30 tons from the contingent fund, 1910.

Authority to make the latter purchase was obtained from the Secretary about April 1, 1909. Prior to my leaving the bureau, i. e., April 5 last, I prepared a letter addressed to the North American Commercial Co. for the purpose of effecting this purchase, and am under the impression that it went out, but if so the company never received it.

I regret exceedingly the annoyance caused you through my error in preparing the instructions.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

MAY 22, 1909.

DEAR DR. EVERMANN: Have just written the commissioner officially in relation to coal for St. Paul Island and regret the annoyance caused you, all through my error in preparing the instructions. It was very stupid of me to have made such a mistake. I was unable while in Chicago to make arrangements for procuring the necessary paraphernalia for the taking of moving pictures on the island. I was informed that the machines are never sold, but are let out under experienced operators who receive a salary of $15 per day. The negatives used cost $1 per foot, and the positive 15 cents per foot.

We sail at 1 p. m. to-day. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have promised to call at 11 and lunch with us. Mr. C., as you doubtless know, could not get away at present, but will sail from Seattle late in June for Nome and come to the islands from there on a cutter. Am sorry he is not going with us, because as long as he is going I should have preferred that he witness the branding of bachelors which has been inaugurated since his time, and which is highly important.

With best wishes, I remain, sincerely, yours,

JAMES JUDGE.

Dr. B. W. EVERMANN,
Washington, D. C.

MAY 15, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Fur-Seal Islands,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: There is inclosed herewith for your information a copy of a letter sent to Mr. George A. Clark.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th ultimo, inclosing, for my information, a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. G. A. Clark, authorizing that gentleman to investigate and enumerate the Pribilof fur-seal herd during the ensuing season.

In reply, I have to state that I shall cooperate fully with Mr. Clark, and furnish him with every facility at my command useful in the prosecution of his investigation.

I can not withhold, however, an expression of my opinion that any unnecessary enumeration of the seal herd at a time when the island is surrounded by the Japanese sealing fleet is highly detrimental in effect. Enumeration of seals means disturbance of seals—driving them off into the water. The condition of having the most seals in the water is that especially desired by the sealers, who, in fact, seek to promote this very condition by approaching land in a body and frightening seals therefrom by a fusillade of shotguns. It is unnecessary for me to point out that any policy adopted on land which would aid the killing of breeding seals in the water is equivalent in result to the killing of such animals on land.

For years it has been the practice of the agents to enumerate harems and bulls of all classes on the 15th of July, approximately, and on August 1 to count such number of live pups as will allow the determination of an average harem. These counts are justifiable on the ground of strict necessity. Counts other than these are interesting in determining the rate of influx, variation, and kindred minor matters, but have no especial effect in insuring accuracy for the final counts.

While I shall aid Mr. Clark in every way possible, as before stated, should he desire my opinion on the scope of his investigation, I shall advance views similar to those expressed here.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 14, 1909.

SIR: I have the honor to report that Assistant Agent Clark and Mrs. Clark landed on St. George Island from the revenue cutter *Manning* on the 4th instant. Assistant Agent Judge and Mrs. Judge landed on St. Paul Island from the *Homer* on the 8th instant.

During the ensuing summer Assistant Agents Clark and Chichester will be stationed on St. George Island and Assistant Agent Judge and myself on St. Paul. At the close of the season Assistant Agent Chichester and myself will report in person at Washington.

A forecast of the number of seals to be taken during the coming season or of the number of breeding seals to be present can not be

made at this time. Such counts as have been made already, however, when contrasted with enumerations made on similar dates last season, indicate strongly that there will be a moderate increase in breeding bulls as the result of the saving of bachelor seals made for the first time in 1904 and continued annually thereafter.

No Japanese schooners have appeared in the sea up to this date, nor have any been reported by the cutters which cruised through the North Pacific on their way to the islands. Reports indicate that the Japanese sealing fleet this season will number 39 vessels, an increase of 1 vessel over the fleet of 1908.

It has been reported to me also that the Victoria Sealing Co. (Ltd.), will not send out any of its schooners this year on its own account, but has leased to individuals about 5 of its schooners, which will be operated as pelagic sealing schooners by the persons to whom they are leased. In addition several Canadian schooners owned and operated by individuals will engage in sealing.

Two revenue cutters already are on patrol about the islands; a third has gone to Attu Island to inspect that locality; while the fourth is expected to arrive in the sea from San Francisco on June 20.

In this connection it may be interesting to state that the Victoria Sealing Co. (Ltd.), the joint stock corporation which owns all but a few of the Canadian sealing schooners, also owns or controls the majority of the stock of the Vancouver Island shore whale fishery, and is devoting to the latter industry all of its resources. If has abandoned practically all active participation in pelagic sealing.

Bachelor seals have not hauled on the islands in numbers sufficient to justify beginning the work of marking seals for a breeding reserve. It is anticipated, however, that the quota to be marked will have been secured by June 25.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries.

JULY 9, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent, Alaska Fur-Seal Agent,
St. Paul Island, Alaska,

SIR: The bureau acknowledges with thanks the receipt of your various letters of June 9, 10, and 14. I am glad to know that Messrs. Judge and Clark reached the islands in safety and that conditions on the islands are encouraging. It is also noted that you have received the various instructions sent you and that you will carry them out to the best of your ability.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

JULY 20, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Islands,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: It is likely that during the course of the present summer Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock, member of the advisory board of the fur-

seal service, will have an opportunity to visit the Pribilof Islands, and in that event I have to request that you facilitate as far as possible his investigations and accord him every courtesy during his stay on the islands.

Respectfully, CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

EXHIBIT 3.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 14, 1909.

This is to certify that 11,022 fur-seal skins, the entire quota of this island for 1909, have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Shippers load and count. All on board to be discharged.

A. DONALDSON,
Master, Steamer "Homer."

ISLAND OF ST. GEORGE,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August, 1909.

This is to certify that 3,314 fur-seal skins have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer*, Donaldson, master, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Treasury Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Shippers load and count. All on board to be discharged.

A. DONALDSON, *Master.*

EXHIBIT 2.

ISLAND OF ST. PAUL,
Bering Sea, Alaska, August 14, 1909.

This is to certify that 32 fur-seal skins of the quota of 1908 have this day been shipped on board the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer*, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

Shippers load and count. All on board to be discharged.

A. DONALDSON,
Master, Steamer "Homer."

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 17, 1909.*

Dr. BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR DR. EVERMANN: I am in receipt of your letter of June 24 last, and wish to thank you very much for the interest taken by you in my fox paper and also for your kindness in forwarding me 25 copies of same, together with 12 copies of Mr. Bailey's paper on The Otter as a Fur Bearer.

Fox life on St. Paul is looking better than it has for several years past. I have buried a quantity of seal meat for fox food and will endeavor during the coming winter to accomplish something toward placing the St. Paul foxes on a basis similar to that which has worked so well on St. George Island.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *August 30, 1909.*

COMMISSIONER FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.:

Arrived to-night, Agent Chichester; 14,336 sealskins shipped, total quota 1909; also 32 skins, quota 1908; arrive Washington about September 10; address Jefferson Hotel.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, August 31, 1909.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you that this bureau is in receipt of a letter dated August 15, 1909, from Mr. George A. Clark, who, as special assistant, was detailed this year to make a count of the fur seals on the rookeries of the Pribilof Islands. Mr. Clark took a similar census in 1897, and the results of this season's work afford a valuable comparative basis for ascertaining the status and prospects of the fur-seal herd. In view of the very serious conditions disclosed by this investigation, it is deemed advisable to acquaint the department at once with the contents of this letter, so that any action that seems expedient may be taken without waiting for the final report.

The following quotations comprise the substance of Mr. Clark's letter:

The essential features of the situation are:

1. That the herd is reduced to about one-third what it was in 1896–97—50,000 breeding females, a like number of pups, and sufficient animals of other classes to bring the entire herd up to approximately 140,000.

The individual rookeries show exceptional conditions. Notable is the case of the Northeast Point rookeries. From a total of 1,143 harems in 1897, these have fallen in 1909 to 232 harems—about one-fifth. This has been due to the concentration in the season of 1908 of the Japanese pelagic fleet off these rookeries.

2. There is a vigorous and adequate supply of male life for breeding purposes. For the total of active harem bulls of 1,387, there are 513 idle and young bulls ready for

harem duty. A reservation of 2,000 3 and 4 year old bachelors for this season guarantees a sufficiency, if not an overstocking of the breeding grounds with males 3 to 5 years hence.

3. The quota of killable seals is short 675, or thereabouts, of the quota of 15,000. It would have been much shorter still if the same grade of skins were taken as in 1896–97. With a herd approaching one-third of its former size a quota three-fourths as great—the quota of 1897 was 20,000—could not reasonably have been expected. The smaller seals taken to make up the number secured are, however, well out of the way of the Japanese sealers.

4. The Japanese sealing is terribly destructive, being at such close range. Every seal leaving the islands to feed must run the gauntlet of the boats just off the 3-mile limit both going out and returning, and the reports of guns on a still day are incessant. The natural result of this shooting must be felt in the loss of many animals in excess of those actually secured.

The count of pups on certain St. Paul rookeries showed on August 3 fully 6½ per cent of the pups dead or dying of starvation. This was the result of sealing in July. A like mortality will result from the sealing in August, bringing the full loss to something like 12 per cent for the season.

It is respectfully suggested that this matter be brought to the attention of the Department of State with a view to the renewal of efforts for an international agreement, particularly with Japan, for the suppression of pelagic sealing. The shrinkage of two-thirds in the size of the fur-seal herd in 12 years; the reduction of four-fifths in the size of some of the rookeries as a direct result of the operations of the Japanese sealers last year; and the loss in 1909 of about 6,000 young seals by starvation because of the killing of their mothers by Japanese hunters, would appear to warrant the most active and determined measures on the part of our Government to ameliorate conditions on the seal islands.

Very respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *September 3, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in pursuance of my duties as special warden in charge of the Pribilof Reservation, I sailed to Walrus Island yesterday, having as a boat's crew six natives and as guests Messrs. Proctor and Drennin, of the North American Commercial Co.

We sailed from Village Cove at 9 a. m. around Reef Point. When abreast Rocky Point the wind died down and we pulled from there to Walrus Island. There was some swell and the tide was against us, so that we did not arrive until 3.30 p. m. While securing our boat two reports from a shotgun were heard. We carried two Krags and a small quantity of ammunition. While filling the magazines of our rifles a boat with three men, who proved to be Japanese, rounded the south end of the island, within a few yards of the bluffs, apparantly headed for the landing. We shouted and gesticulated for them to come in, but instead of accepting the invitation, they put about and attempted to escape. A shot across their bow caused them to surrender and come in. On their way in they threw a dead seal overboard. On arrival at the landing they were given seats on a shelf of rock and kept under guard. Their boat contained the usual sealing outfit, including two shotguns, both loaded, an oilskin

garment in the bottom, and the inner side of the boat was smeared with fresh blood. Our examination was scarcely completed when another boat with three men, who proved to be Japanese, was discovered rounding the north end of the island, within a few yards of shore, and apparently headed for the landing. We concealed until they were close up, and signaled them to come in. They put about and we gave them a shot wide. This not having the desired effect, another shot was fired close in, when they at once stood up and hoisted their hats on the end of their oars. Following our signals they pulled around to the landing and were given seats alongside their countrymen, two of our party with one rifle standing guard some distance off. This boat carried the usual sealing outfit, including two shotguns, both loaded. It also carried a seal gasping in the agonies of death. The inside of the boat was smeared with fresh blood.

Within a few minutes a third boat with three men appeared off the south end of the island, in a line with, but somewhat farther out than, our first boat was when brought to. Upon perceiving us they turned quickly, and regardless of several shots dropped in their vicinity succeeded in getting around the point of the island and temporarily out of our range. We started for the high land where they would have been within easy range, when our attention was attracted by a fourth boat rounding the north end of the island, and apparantly headed for the landing. We therefore abandoned the pursuit of the third and captured the fourth boat without firing a shot. This boat carried the usual sealing gear, including two shotguns, both loaded. Further investigation showed two more boats about one-half mile east of Walrus Island, and the schooner on a line with and 2 or 3 miles beyond them. We took possession of the guns and ammunition in the third boat captured to prevent as far as possible the destruction of seals by its occupants, and permitted the boat to depart, because I considered two boats and six prisoners about as much as we could conveniently handle with our limited force and means, and with night approaching.

As we had eaten nothing since breakfast, a fire was built, tea made, and lunch hastily partaken of. While we were eating the Japs requested permission to enter their boats and procure food for themselves. One man being given permission, entered the boats and passed out the grub boxes, and then began washing off the seal blood from the garment in the bottom of the boat. He was stopped and ordered ashore, but not before considerable of the blood had been removed from the garment.

On our return two natives and one Jap went into each of the captured boats, and the remaining four Japs and the remainder of our party with all guns and ammunition took passage in the Government boat. At 4.30 we cleared the landing and hoisted sail for Northeast Point, where we arrived at 6.30 and were met by the guard. I telephoned the village and instructed the guards at the different rookeries to build fires on high places and fire cannon in hopes of attracting the attention of the revenue cutters on patrol.

About 7 p. m. the *Bear* came around West Point bound for the village. Mr. Allis and Dr. Mills intercepted her 3 miles out, and she at once communicated with the *Manning* by wireless, and then came to East Landing. We arrived at 9.30 p. m. and found Capt. Bertholf

ashore. His steward acted as interpreter and we learned that our prisoners belonged to the Japanese sealing schooner *Eiun Maru*, from Sindie, that she carried eight boats and was homeward bound, but remained for another day's sealing, because the weather was so fine. Prior to this we obtained no information from them, as they feigned not to understand when questioned. I gave Capt. Bertholf a résumé of the evidence and urged speed in capturing the schooner while she was practically becalmed off Walrus Island. On our way home we had had very little wind at any time, and when off Polovina we took in sail and manned all the oars. Prior to that only the Japs had been pulling.

Shortly after 10 p. m. the *Bear* got under way. There is no wind to-day, the sea is smooth, weather bright, and sky clear, and there is no reason that the schooner will not soon be, if indeed she has not already been, apprehended.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Bureau of Fisheries,
In Charge St. Paul Island.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *September 4, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to confirm my telegram of even date to wit:

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
September 4, 1909.

Hon. GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Report that on 2d instant, with small sailboat, I captured two boats belonging to the Japanese sealing schooner *Eiun Maru*, each containing three Japanese, in immediate vicinity of Walrus Island, with a freshly killed seal in either boat.

(Signed) JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent in Charge St. Paul Island.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Bureau of Fisheries,
In Charge St. Paul Island.

[Telegram.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE CUTTER "BEAR,"
September 4.

Hon. GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Report that on the 2d instant, with small sailboat, I captured two boats belonging to Japanese schooner *Eiun Maru No. 2*, containing three Japanese, in immediate vicinity of Walrus Island, with freshly killed fur seal in its boats.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent in Charge.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *September 11, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Japanese sealing schooner, *Eiun Maru*, five of whose boats were observed and three captured while sealing in territorial waters the 2d instant, as indicated in my report of the 3d, eluded the pursuit made by the revenue cutters on patrol, and is now at large. The escape of said vessel is, in my opinion, without legitimate excuse. At about 7.45 p. m. of the 2d instant, the *Bear*, on her return from a surveying expedition, was intercepted some distance off West Landing by Mr. Allis and Dr. Mills in the gasoline launch with, in effect, the information that our laws had been violated by a Japanese schooner in the vicinity of Walrus Island; that I had taken six prisoners and was on my way to the village with them, and that I had requested that the cutters be notified as early as possible, so that they could overhaul and seize the schooner while she was practically becalmed in that locality. Capt. Bertholf inquired why I had not mentioned the schooner's name, and when informed I had been unable to get any information from the prisoners, said he would anchor and await my arrival. Accordingly, the vessel anchored at East Landing, and the captain, accompanied by his Japanese steward, who was to act as interpreter, came ashore and walked to the company's house, where he arrived at 8.45, and was informed that the Northeast Point watchmen had reported that the schooner to which the prisoners belonged was in close proximity to Walrus Island and that the *Manning* had caught a schooner, but that it was "the wrong one," as the latter vessel had been sealing for several days from 10 to 12 miles off Northeast Point. He also learned, if not previously aware of the fact, that these two schooners were the only ones in the vicinity of St. Paul Island.

I arrived at 9.30, and a few minutes later an examination of the prisoners began. This proved a slow process, as the Japs debated everything among themselves before answering. After considerable difficulty, we learned the name of their schooner, her home port, and the number of boats she carried, but were unable to learn the name of the captain, the number of sealskins she had on board, or get answers to other questions asked. Capt. Bertholf then became disgusted, and selecting one of the prisoners for further examination took him aboard.

At 10.30 p. m. the *Bear* sailed in the direction of Walrus Island. It was then very dark, and nearly three hours of valuable time had been consumed in acquiring information of little practical value and no utility for the work in hand. Instead of anchoring and waiting at the village, Capt. Bertholf should, upon receipt of the information conveyed him by Messrs. Allis and Mills, have gone under full steam to Walrus Island, as every one naturally expected him to do. Had he done this, one hour of good steaming would have revealed the schooner to the man in the crow's nest. Or, if he entertained doubts of the authenticity of the report he had received or considered it insufficient to act upon, he could have shaped his course to Walrus Island so as to have intercepted me on the way there with either the vessel or the launch he had on board.

The course pursued by the *Manning*, while daylight or dusk remained, was equally futile and barren of results. This vessel was cruising somewhere off Northeast Point when Messrs. Allis and Mills overhauled the *Bear*. Upon being notified by the *Bear's* wireless, the *Manning* soon ran down the *Chiyokuni Maru* and remained close to her, according to the watchmen, until 10.30, when she sailed to the northeastward. Upon arriving at the company's house, Capt. Bertholf learned definitely, as herein indicated, that the schooner in custody of the *Manning* was innocent and that the guilty schooner was in the vicinity of Walrus Island. Why with this information he did not at once cause the *Manning* to release the schooner she had in custody and proceed elsewhere is as difficult to understand as his own failure to move, even then, until he had interviewed the prisoners and learned the name of the schooner he was to go in search of. In justice to the officers of the *Manning* it must be understood that these gentlemen were acting under telegraphic orders of the senior captain in charge of the *Bear*.

Now, as regards the guilty schooner, *Eiun Maru*, the evening and night of the 2d instant. When we left Walrus Island she was between 2 and 3 miles offshore. I am positive about this, because she was not half the distance out that I was from Northeast Point. Her captain probably received word of what had happened from the boat that escaped us, or the one we dismissed, at about 5.30. The last seen of her was by the watchmen at Northeast Point at 8.30.

On leaving Walrus Island we sailed and pulled until 7 o'clock, when the wind died out, and after that oars only were used. Conditions aboard the schooner were identical with those encountered by us, and it is therefore evident that the vessel was severely handicapped in effecting her escape. Her salvation consisted in being towed offshore, under cover of darkness, by the six small boats she still possessed. This process is necessarily slow, and when it is considered that there was no wind or fog that night or the next day it seems remarkable that she escaped, even with the start she was so foolishly permitted to have, with two cutters in pursuit, each of which was fully manned and equipped with wireless, and therefore acting in concert.

At 1 a. m. of the 4th instant Lieut. Gray came ashore with word that the *Bear* was in communication with the *Victoria* and would take any message I might have for the authorities at Washington. Availing myself of his kindness and this privilege, I forwarded to you my telegram of that date. Mr. Gray and I arranged for certain signals that were to be used between the shore and ship, in case the lookout I had provided for Bogoslov at daybreak should see a sail in any direction. On arising at 6.30 a. m. of the 4th instant I was surprised to see the *Bear* at anchor on the east side. Immediately after breakfast I went aboard and was disappointed to learn from the captain that the *Manning* was cruising on the 60-mile zone and that, owing to the westerly breeze that had sprung up, the search for the *Eiun Maru* had been abandoned.

On the 4th instant my prisoners were put on board the *Bear*, and on the 6th that vessel sailed for Unalaska, for the preliminary hearing before the United States commissioner. Chief Merculieff took passage to file charges against the prisoners and Mr. Proctor and Nekita Hopoff accompanied him as witnesses.

The sealing schooner *Euin Maru* has willfully and maliciously violated the laws of the United States, and I would therefore suggest that the proper officials in the Treasury Department and the Department of Justice be instructed to seize and detain her, should she at any time in the future enter any port of the United States for any purpose.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Bureau of Fisheries,
In Charge St. Paul Island.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *September 18, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose, for your information, certain self-explanatory correspondence with the United States commissioner at Unalaska and to request that my action in the premises be approved.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Bureau of Fisheries,
In Charge St. Paul Island.

UNITED STATES v. ZAUSHITE MATSUMOTO, ET AL.

DISTRICT OF ALASKA, *Third Division, ss.*

SIR: I, J. L. Brown, United States commissioner, do hereby request that you send to Unalaska, Alaska, by the first cutter coming to Unalaska from the island, all boats, guns, ammunition, and equipments that were captured with the Japanese on the 2d of September, 1909, that they may be placed in the keeping of the United States deputy marshal, to be turned over to the United States district clerk, for confiscation or whatever action he may wish to take in the matter.

Respectfully,

[SEAL.]

J. L. BROWN,
United States Commissioner.

Special Agent JAMES JUDGE,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *September 18, 1909.*

J. L. BROWN, Esq.,
United States Commissioner, Unalaska.

SIR: Replying to your request for the boats and sealing paraphernalia of certain Japanese arrested for violation of the laws for the protection of fur seals on the 2d instant, I have to inform you that said property belongs to the schooner whence these Japanese came, and is liable to confiscation only as part and parcel thereof, and not until the vessel herself is libeled. In the meantime the fur-seal agents are the proper custodians.

Respectfully,

(Signed) JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Bureau of Fisheries,
In Charge St. Paul Island.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *September 18, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the six Japanese arrested for violation of the laws for the protection of fur seals, in the vicinity of Walrus Island, the 2d instant, were tried by the United States commissioner at Unalaska and sentenced to three months in jail and to pay a fine of $200 each.

Respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Bureau of Fisheries,
In Charge St. Paul Island.

[Memorandum to Mr. Lembkey.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, September 10, 1909.

Please let me have, within the next few days if practicable, a statement regarding the Alaska fur-seal service, similar to the one contained in the report of the Secretary for 1908. This is required for inclusion in the annual report of this bureau for 1909.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, September 20, 1909.

The COMMISSIONER:

I have the honor to submit the following summarized report of the conduct of affairs on the Pribilof (fur-seal) Islands reservation during the season ended July 31, 1909:

Fur-seal skins shipped.—There were shipped from the Pribilof Islands on the S. S. *Homer* at the close of the season ended July 31, 1909, 14,368 fur-seal skins. Of these 32 were shipped from St. Paul Island, chargeable to the quota of the preceding season (1908), under instructions contained in your letter of March 11, 1909. The remainder, 14,336, represents the quota of 1909 for both islands, of which 11,022 were taken on St. Paul and 3,314 on St. George. The quota of 15,000 skins for both islands was not obtained for the reason that the requisite number of bachelor seals did not appear in the drives during the legal sealing season.

Skins taken contrary to regulations.—On St. Paul, during the lessee's sealing season, one skin was taken by the lessee, which was found to be under the limit of weight of 5 pounds prescribed by the department. As the skins are shipped from the islands in "bundles" containing two skins each, and as this one undersized skin was required to complete a bundle, it was delivered to the lessee for shipment along with the eligible skins by my direction.

On St. George four large skins exceeding the limit of $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds were taken by the lessee and are retained on that island, subject to further instructions.

Statistics of the killings.—The statistics of seals driven for killing by the lessee during the drives made during its season of 1909 show that 69 per cent were killed and 31 per cent released as being either too large, too small, or marked as breeders. The great scarcity of very small seals in the drives—even in those drives made late in the season when the yearlings are supposed to appear in numbers—was apparent on St. Paul. On St. George 63 per cent of seals driven were killed and 37 per cent released during the lessee's season.

Count of breeding bulls.—During the period between July 13–16, 1909, both inclusive, a count was made of the number of breeding bulls on both islands. That for St. Paul demonstrated the presence of 1,071 bulls with harems, 140 idle bulls, 116 quitters or young 7-year-olds, 13 water bulls, and 83 bulls found on the bachelors' hauling grounds. The count for St. George made at the same time disclosed 267 bulls with harems, 32 idle bulls, 23 quitters, and 15 bulls on the hauling grounds. For comparative purposes the counts before given are contrasted with similar counts made at a corresponding date in 1908:

St. Paul, counts of harems, etc.

Year.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Water bulls.	Hauling grounds bulls.
1909	1,071	140	116	13	83
1908	1,062	90	45	68	.....
Difference	[1] 9	[1] 50	[1] 71	[2] 55	.....

[1] Increase. [2] Decrease.

St. George, counts of harems, etc.

Year.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Hauling grounds bulls.
1909	267	32	23	15
1908	241	34	27	.....
Difference	[1] 26	[2] 2	[2] 4	.....

[1] Increase. [2] Decrease.

It may be seen from the foregoing tables that an increase has occurred among those bulls actually stationed on the breeding grounds, i. e., harem masters and idle bulls, of 83 individuals. This is the result of the application of the regulations exempting certain young males from slaughter to allow them to mature as breeders. As this increase in bulls occurs in the face of a diminishing herd of breeding cows, it is believed that further reservations of young males, at least for several years to come, are unnecessary.

Counts of pups.—On both islands in 1909 the following counts of pups were made:

Date.	Rookery.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Total.	Per cent dead.
1909.	St. Paul:				
Aug. 2	Ketovi	1,669	60	1,729	3
	Amphitheater	246	4	250	1
4	Lagoon	693	22	715	3
	Tolstoi Cliffs	1,397	55	1,452	3
	Zapadni Reef	309	10	319	3
		4,314	151	4,465	3
	St. George:				
	North	3,679	105	3,784	2
		7,993	256	8,249	3

In 1908 pups were counted on St. Paul only on Ketovi and Amphitheater rookeries. A comparison of the counts made in 1908 and 1909, therefore, can be made only as regards these two rookeries. Such comparison follows:

Year.	Rookery.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Total.
1908	Ketovi and Amphitheater	1,877	83	1,906
1909	do	1,915	64	1,979
	Difference			[1] 19

[1] Increase.

A comparison of the counts on North rookery on St. George for the years 1908 and 1909 follows:

Year.	Rookery.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Total.
1908	North	3,969	154	4,123
1909	do	3,679	105	3,784
	Difference			[1] 339

[1] Decrease.

It can be seen from the foregoing tables that on Ketovi and Amphitheater, St. Paul, an increase of 19 pups has occurred, as disclosed by the counts, while on North, St. George, a decrease of 339, or 8 per cent, is demonstrated.

While the limited count of pups on St. Paul does not show a decrease, extended counts of pups over the whole island easily might have disclosed a different result. The disturbance of the rookeries, however, which this extended counting would have occasioned in no sense would have been justified. We therefore must be content with the conclusion, to be drawn from such data as we have on hand, that approximately a 10 per cent reduction in breeding females has occurred since 1908. The whole herd of seals on the Pribilofs now numbers less than 140,000,[1] and of these less than 50,000 [2] are breeding females.

[1] Interlineation: 133,000.

[2] Interlineation: 45,000.

Average harem.—The average harem on St. Paul is ascertained to be 42.1 cows; that on St. George, 34.7. These results are obtained by dividing the total number of pups found on rookeries on which pups were counted by the number of harems ascertained by previous count to be present on the same rookeries at the height of the season.

"Branding" or marking of bachelors.—The quota of bachelors to be marked and released for breeding purposes was obtained at St. Paul during the period between June 24 and 28, 1909, and approximately during that period on St. George. Two thousand bachelors were marked, that number being composed of 2 and 3 year olds. Eight hundred of each class were obtained on St. Paul and 200 of each on St. George.

I shall submit a detailed report at as early a date as practicable.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

Forwarded.

BARTON W. EVERMANN,
In Charge of Scientific Inquiry.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 8, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Fur-Seal Agent.
Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Fur-Seal Agent.

SIRS: Now that the fur-seal service has been transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries, your attention is called to Department Circular No. 179, a copy of which is hereto attached, governing leaves of absence. You will observe these regulations; also all those pertaining to office hours, temporary brief absence from office, and in all matters of office routine.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING LEAVES OF ABSENCE. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1909.

[Department circular No. 179. Supersedes department circulars Nos. 45, June 30, 1904, and 148 of March 30, 1907.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 1, 1908.

To whom it may concern:

The following regulations to govern leaves of absence of clerks and other employees of the Department of Commerce and Labor in Washington, D. C., are hereby promulgated, and all prior rules and regulations on this subject are revoked:

In section 7 of the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation act, approved March 15, 1898, it is provided that—

* * * The head of any department may grant thirty days' annual leave with pay in any one year to each clerk or employee: *And provided further*, That where some member of the immediate family of a clerk or employee is afflicted with a contagious disease and requires the care and attendance of such employee, or where his or her presence in the department would jeopardize the health of fellow-clerks, and in exceptional and meritorious cases, where a clerk or employee is personally ill and where to limit the annual leave in any one calendar year would work peculiar hardship, it may be extended, in the discretion of the Secretary, with pay, not exceeding thirty days in any one case in any one calendar year.

This section shall not be construed to mean that so long as a clerk or employee is borne upon the rolls of the department in excess of the time herein provided for or granted that he or she shall be entitled to pay during the period of such excessive absence, but that the pay shall stop upon the expiration of the granted leave.

The deficiency appropriation act, approved July 7, 1898, provides that—

* * * nothing contained in section seven of the act making appropriations for legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the fiscal year eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, approved March fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, shall be construed to prevent the head of any Executive Department from granting thirty days' annual leave with pay in any one year to a clerk or employee, notwithstanding such clerk or employee may have had during such year not exceeding thirty days' leave with pay on account of sickness as provided in said section seven.

The legislative, executive, and judicial act, approved February 24, 1899, provides that—

* * * the thirty days' annual leave of absence with pay in any one year to clerks and employees in the several Executive Departments authorized by existing law shall be exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays.

The act providing for the organization of the Militia of the District of Columbia (25 Stat. L., 779) provides:

That all officers and employees of the United States and of the District of Columbia who are members of the National Guard shall be entitled to leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay or time, on all days of any parade or encampment ordered or authorized under the provisions of this act.[1]

The leave of absence authorized by the foregoing provisions of law will be granted to clerks and other employees of the Department of Commerce and Labor upon application made out in the form prescribed by the department and approved by the head of the bureau or office in which the applicant serves, subject to the following conditions:

1. Except in the case of leave without pay (application for which must be submitted to the Secretary with a statement of the reasons), all leave will be regarded as granted under the general authority contained in the foregoing paragraph, when the application meets the requirements of these regulations and is approved by the head of the proper bureau or office.

2. Applications for annual leave must be made in advance, and all partial-day absences on annual leave will be charged in periods of 15 minutes and multiples thereof.

3. Applications for sick leave must be submitted within five days after return to duty, and if the leave applied for exceeds three days the application must be supported by a certificate of the attending physician, who must be a duly authorized practitioner of medicine.

[1] By the act of July 1, 1902 (32 Stat. L., 615), this provision is construed to cover all days of service which the National Guard, or any portion thereof, may be ordered to perform by the commanding general.

4. Sick leave may be approved in periods of one-half day and multiples thereof, and an employee detained by illness or exposure to contagion must promptly notify the office in which he or she is employed.

5. Periods of enforced absence from office by reason of exposure to a contagious disease against which the local authorities quarantine may be approved in lieu of sick leave.

6. Leave without pay will be charged in periods of one-half day and multiples thereof, and in any case in which the period charged exceeds the period of actual absence subsequent absences on leave without pay may be credited to the excess. Any absence in excess of the leave authorized by law will be charged to leave without pay, and the facts in each such case must be immediately reported to the department.

7. Applications for military leave must be supported by the certificate of a competent officer of the District National Guard.

8. Sundays and legal holidays (whether for the whole or part of a day) at the beginning or end of any kind of leave, or within a period of annual leave, will not be counted; but those which occur within a period of sick leave, or leave without pay, will be counted.

9. Persons transferred from another department, or from one bureau or office to another within the department, will be charged with the leave taken before such transfer. No person will be allowed leave, during the year in which he enters the service, in excess of the rate of two and one-half days for each month of service. A person leaving the service will not be allowed more than accrued leave, but the department will consider a recommendation for the waiver of this provision when the person concerned has been in the service for three years or more, or when there are especially meritorious reasons why an exception should be made. A proportionate deduction from the annual allowance of leave will be made in the case of a person on furlough without pay for longer than 30 days, unless the absence is due to personal illness and all sick leave is exhausted, in which latter case no deduction will be made unless the absence without pay exceeds 90 days; in either case the whole period of absence without pay will be considered in determining the amount to be deducted. Temporary "job" employees appointed upon certification of the Civil Service Commission, or authorized by the commission in the absence of eligibles, may be granted annual and sick leave after three months' continuous service, at the rate of two and one-half days per month, beginning with the fourth month.

10. Monthly reports of absences of all employees serving in, or by direct detail from, the District of Columbia will be made to the Secretary on the form provided for that purpose.

11. These regulations shall be applied as far as practicable to the service without the District of Columbia.

12. These regulations shall be effective on and after January 1, 1909.

OSCAR S. STRAUS, *Secretary.*

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *October 9, 1909.*

Dr. B. W. EVERMANN,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Some time ago Dr. Fox, surgeon of the *Bear*, requested a starving pup in order that he might end its existence with an anæsthetic and make an examination for ectoparasites. I furnished the pup and he applied sufficient chloroform to have killed a man, but without apparent deleterious effect upon the animal. No ectoparasites were discovered. Dr. Fox then turned the pup over to the boatswain, Mr. Thurber, who undertook to feed and rear it. In pouring condensed milk forcibly down its throat Mr. Thurber discovered that the animal experienced difficulty in swallowing and attributed this to the fact that the tongue was held firmly by the lesions underneath. He then cut away about an inch of those lesions, which gave the tongue considerable play and assisted materially in aiding the animal to swallow. He rigged a tank aboard and taught the pup to eat by dragging pieces of fish through the water with a string. Later on the pup ate from his hand. The pup, which if left on the rookery would have died in a few days, was kept alive aboard the *Bear* for three weeks. Upon its decease Dr. Fox made a post-mortem, and while he could not decide the cause of death he was inclined to attribute it to the effects of worms found in the stomach, intestines, and liver, concerning which I have written Mr. Chichester at some length.

Mr. Thurber has a natural aptitude for handling animals and was anxious to make another effort, and Capt. Bertholf was equally anxious he should do so. Remembering our conversation along this line, and in view of the success achieved in teaching a pup to feed, I decided to let him have two strong, vigorous pups, animals that were born early in the season, and whose systems were about ready for a fish diet.

Recently the *Bear* was ordered to Nome, but yesterday the *Manning* came in, having the *Bear's* tank on board, with a request for the pups for delivery aboard the vessel, at Unalaska, the 15th. Accordingly two pups were secured, a male and a female, weighing to-day 38 and 34 pounds, respectively, and sent aboard.

Under the arrangement entered into the pups are to remain the property of the Bureau of Fisheries, and Mr. Thurber, if successful, is to receive a reasonable compensation for his labor. In this connection I wish to state that the glory of the achievement is of more importance to Mr. Thurber than any compensation he may receive. The *Bear* goes to San Diego, and Capt. Bertholf assured me the pups could remain aboard until it became convenient for the bureau to remove them. I sincerely trust that these pups, or at least one of them, will live in captivity.

Very respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent, Bureau of Fisheries.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "BEAR,"
Sausalito, Cal., November 20, 1909.

Mr. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: At the request of Mr. Judge, special agent at St. Paul Island, Bering Sea, I am writing to inform you of a circumstance that may be of interest. During this past summer while the *Bear* was on the seal patrol Mr. Judge permitted our surgeon to take on board a half-starved seal pup, which had lost its mother, for the purpose of examining it for fleas, the surgeon being interested in collecting and studying these insects. The seal was chloroformed and of course it was expected to die, but although enough of the drug to kill one or two men was administered, the pup lived through it. Thereupon Mr. Judson Thurber, the boatswain of the *Bear*, asked permission to try and raise the pup. He succeeded in getting the pup to eat fish of its own accord and the animal seemed to thrive. It grew fat and was as lively as any pup on the beach and was with us for three weeks, when suddenly one day it was seized with convulsions and died in a few hours. The fact of having induced the pup to eat was interesting, and Mr. Judge suggested that Mr. Thurber try and raise a seal that would be in good condition when delivered. Mr. Judge accordingly turned over to Mr. Thurber two seal pups, one a male and the other a female, and both in excellent condition. This was on October 9, and both pups are now in excellent condition and eat regularly and even greedily. As I understand, all former attempts to induce seal pups to eat in captivity have failed. I give below the history of this experiment:

October 9, delivered to *Manning*.

October 14, delivered by *Manning* to the *Bear* (seals did not eat between these dates).

October 19, female began to eat solid fish.

October 23, male chloroformed and "string" under tongue cut.

October 28, male induced to swallow a little dried salmon.

November 2, male began to eat at will and on that day took with evident relish nine small herring at Seattle.

It appears that the seal pup has its tongue so formed that it can move it very little while nursing its mother, and under such conditions it is evident it swallows solid food with great difficulty.

In the case of the half-starved pup, Mr. Thurber ran his finger down the throat and tore away the "string" that held the tongue, and the animal soon began to eat fish. In the case of the two seals now on board, it appears the female was able to break this "string" herself, and a few days after she began to eat. The male was unable to do this, or did not do it, and so on October 23 he was chloroformed and the doctor cut the ligament holding the tongue with a pair of scissors. Immediately began running his tongue out and to nose around the fish in his box, but he did not eat, possibly because we had no food suitable, for most of the time the vessel was at sea and Mr. Thurber had nothing but dried salmon to give to the pups. As soon as we arrived at Seattle a quantity of small fish was obtained and both animals ate greedily.

It will appear from the above that the female was the easier to raise and she was without food for 10 days only. Consequently, she

has remained in good condition ever since coming on board. The male, however, was without food after leaving St. Paul Island 19 days, and even then the amount he ate was very small. He was practically without food from October 9 until November 2, when he began to eat small herring. During that time he grew thin rapidly and was a pitiful sight beside his fat and sleek-looking mate. Since he began to eat regularly he has fattened daily, until now both animals are in excellent condition.

The pups have been kept in a box 6 feet long by 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep. In this box are small pieces of rock for them to lie on when there is no water in the box. At first the box was filled with sea water two or three times a day. Now the box is kept filled during the day and emptied at night. They manifest no desire to leave the water during the day, and frequently sleep on the surface. In the morning when the box is filled they manifest every indication of delight. They are very tame, and when not in the water will allow anyone to pet them and rub the head and back, unless a quick motion is made. In the latter case they will snap, but even when they snap at the hand they will not bite hard if the hand is allowed to remain quiet.

When they came on board Mr. Thurber began his task by holding the animal and forcing open the mouth and pouring down evaporated cream mixed with bits of fish. They resented this, but small quantities went into the stomach. Later Mr. Thurber would tie bits of fish on a string and tease the animal until it would snap at the fish, and then he would manage to poke the fish down the throat and cut the string. In this way the female was taught the taste for fish, and she soon learned to eat by herself, possibly because she could use the tongue freely in swallowing. During all the time the tongue of the male remained uncut, he would cry the greater part of the day and night, but although dried salmon was forced into his mouth, and there was plenty lying around the bottom of the box, he would not voluntarily take the same down, and what little was forced down the throat he had the greatest difficulty in swallowing.

The whole experiment has been very interesting to me, because of the wonderful patience shown by Mr. Thurber. He is a lover of animals and takes infinite pains. He has spent hours a day trying to tease the male into opening its mouth so that he might force down pieces of fish. If it is true that this is the first successful attempt to raise a seal pup in captivity, then Mr. Thurber deserves something for his pains. Mr. Judge suggested that there might be some fund available from which Mr. Thurber could be remunerated for his pains and the expense to which he has been put. At present it costs him about $1 a day to purchase sufficient fish to satisfy these greedy little fellows. He has not done this because of the hope of a reward, but mainly because it has been a pleasure to him. At the same time it has taken an amount of patience and perseverence that few men possess. Of course there are public parks and aquariums that would be glad to have these animals, and very likely would be glad to pay for them, but it occurred to Mr. Judge and myself that you should be notified, in order that you might make some disposition of the pups if so disposed, and I am writing on behalf of Mr. Thurber. It was understood by Mr. Judge and myself that if the department

did not wish to, or was unable to reward Mr. Thurber, he would be at liberty to dispose of the animals in any way he desired.

The important thing according to Mr. Judge was to establish the fact that the pups could be raised, even if it required all one man's time to do it.

I am inclosing herewith a small Kodak of Mr. Thurber with his pups,[1] showing how tame they are.

Very truly, E. P. BERTHOLF.

Record of the fur seal pups "Bismark" and "Mamie."

1909.		Fish.
Oct. 8.	St. Paul Island. Received one male fur seal.	
9.	St. Paul Island. Received one female fur seal.	
9–15.	Fed on evaporated cream.	
16.	Fish and milk mixed.	
17.	Do.	
18.	Do.	
19.	Do.	
20.	Do.	
21.	Female ate one-half pound of fish.	
22.	Do.	
23.	Do.	
24.	Do.	
24.	Male chloroformed and tongue cut.	
25.	Male and female ate fish and milk.	
26.	Do.	
27.	Do.	
28.	Do.	
29.	Male ate one-half pound of fish.	
30.	Eating alone; water twice a day.	
31.	Do.	
Nov. 1.	Water twice a day; no fish.	
2.	Male ate nine smelt and female ate four	$2.00
3.	Eating alone; water all day.	
4.	Do	3.00
5.	Eating all they can get; water all day.	
6.	Do.	
7.	Do.	
8.	Do.	
9.	Do.	
10.	Fish all gone.	
11.	One salmon	.90
12.	Eating well	1.75
13.	Eating all the fish they can get	.75
14.	In quarantine	1.00
15.	Eating all the fish they can get	1.00
16.	Do	1.00
17.	Do	.50
18.	Do	.50
19.	Do	.60
20.	Do	1.00
21.	Do	.50
22.	Do	.50
23.	Do	1.00
24.	Do	.50
25.	Do	.50
26.	Do	.50
27.	Sick; bad fish.	
28.	All well	1.00
29.	Eating all the fish they can get	1.00
30.	Do	.75
Dec. 1.	Do	2.00
2.	Do	1.00
3.	Do	

[1] Illustration not furnished.

			Fish.
1909.			
Dec.	4.	Eating all the fish they can get	
	5.	Do	
	6.	Do	$0.50
	7.	Do	.30
	8.	Do	.50
	9.	Do	.25
	10.	Do	.25
	11.	Do	.75
	12.	Do	.25
	13.	Do	.50
	14.	Do	.25
	15.	Do	.25
	16.	Do	.50
	17.	Do	1.00
	18.	Do	.50
	19.	Do	.50
	20.	Do	.50
	21.	Do	1.00
	22.	Do	.75
	23.	Do	.75
	24.	Do	.75
	25.	Do	.75
	26.	Do	1.00
	27.	Do	.75
	28.	Do	.75
	29.	Do	.75
	30.	Do	1.00
	31.	Do	1.00
1910.			
Jan.	1.	Do	1.00
	2.	Do	1.00
	3.	Do	.75
	4.	Do	1.00
	5.	Do	.75
	6.	Do	1.00
	7.	Do	.75
	8.	Do	1.00
	9.	Do	
	10.	Do	1.00
	11.	Do	3.00
			50.55
1909.			
Oct. 8 to Oct. 31.		14 cans cream, at 20 cents	2.80
			53.35
		(No vouchers were taken for the above amounts.)	
Dec. 31.		8 barrels, at $1.60; voucher 1	12.80
1910.			
Jan.	1.	1 pair gloves (returned to Fish Commission); voucher 2	1.75
	1.	1 suit overalls (returned to Fish Commission); voucher 3	1.90
	15.	Fish on diner for pups; voucher 4	1.00
	16.	Fish at Baltimore for pups; no voucher	1.00
	13.	Telegram, Kansas City to Chicago for fish; no voucher	1.00
	14.	Telegram, Chicago to Pittsburg for fish; no voucher	1.00
			73.80

OCTOBER 23, 1909.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries of Alaska,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR MR. LEMBKEY: Will you please furnish me at your early convenience—say by Wednesday at the latest—with a statement containing approximately 800 or 900 words regarding conditions on the fur-seal islands. The Secretary wishes me to give the widest publicity to the termination of the contract and to the department's intention to advertise for proposals next spring. The Associated Press has promised to send a story all over the country and wishes to add enough readable matter to make it interesting.

I suggest that your statement describe all that it consistently can of the contract and its terms, and also contain data regarding the life of the natives on the islands—their church, school, mode of subsistence, liquor privileges to the church, etc. Of course, incidents of the past season will be welcome. I want to give a good story to the Associated Press, and you need have no hesitancy in setting forth the facts, for it is the Secretary's desire that they be given publicity within reason.

Very truly, yours,

T. L. WEED,
Chief Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, November 17, 1909.

Hon. CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: The most important problem now before the Bureau of Fisheries is connected with the administration of the fur-seal islands in Alaska and the renewal of the lease for the killing of seals thereon.

For at least 15 years the precarious condition of the fur-seal herd has been incessantly brought to the notice of the Government by many persons competent to discuss the matter, and every authority has forcefully pointed out the absolute necessity of the Government immediately concluding some arrangement by which the slaughter of fur seals when absent from the rookeries in search of food should be prevented. The net outcome of the work and recommendations and pleas of a long procession of special commissioners and experts and agents has been (1) the passage of a law by which American fishermen are prohibited from engaging in pelagic sealing, while fishermen of all other nationalities are permitted to do so; and (2) the steady and rapid decimation of the seal herd, owing chiefly to the fitting out of a large fleet of Japanese sealing vessels that operate in close proximity to the rookeries. Diplomacy appears to have been unable or unwilling to do anything whatever in mitigation of the unfortunate state of affairs, which have steadily gone from bad to worse.

The fur-seal service has come under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Fisheries at a time when the condition of the seal herd is worse than ever before, when the outlook for the next season is most discouraging, and when the contract for the lease of the seal islands must, under the law, be renewed for a period of 20 years. The exist-

ing circumstances greatly diminish the value of the franchise and may result in large financial losses to the Government and are furthermore a most serious menace to the perpetuity of the seal herd. I therefore find myself confronted by a very grave emergency and desire to lay before you certain facts that may be of use to you in considering the responsibilities and duties of the department in this matter.

As bearing particularly on the present conditions, I wish to refer to the detailed report, recently received, from Mr. Geo. A. Clark, who was sent to the Pribilof Islands last summer to make a study of the fur-seal herd. As Mr. Clark was the member of the fur-seal commission of 1896–97 to whom was assigned the detailed study of the rookeries in those years, his investigations made this season are particularly important because the same methods were employed, the same scope was covered, and the personal equation was eliminated.

Mr. Clark's full report bears out the opinion formed from a consideration of his preliminary report to which your attention was called in a communication from this bureau dated August 31. The report shows that the fur-seal herd has suffered a heavy decline during the past 13 seasons, as is evidenced by the fact that in 1896–97 there were respectively 5,009 and 4,418 breeding families (harems) and 157,000 and 130,000 breeding females, while in 1909 there were only 1,387 harems and 50,000 breeding females, and the further fact that whereas the hauling grounds in 1896–97 yielded respectively 30,000 and 20,000 skins, in 1909 they yielded only 14,000, many of which would have been rejected in earlier years because below the standard.

The report further shows that the cause of this decline has been the continued operation of pelagic sealing, involving the abstraction of the females in excess of the natural increment of young breeders, the injurious effects of pelagic sealing being greatly heightened in recent years by the advent of the Japanese fleet, using firearms and operating throughout the breeding season in close proximity to the rookeries. If pelagic sealing could have been stopped in 1897 it is shown that the herd to-day would contain about 300,000 breeding cows (as against 50,000, the actual number for the season of 1909), and the product of the hauling grounds would have risen to 50,000, yielding a Government revenue of $500,000, as against 14,000 and a revenue of $143,000 for the present year. Without the drain of pelagic sealing the herd could continue to increase almost indefinitely.

The lease of the North American Commercial Co. expires next spring and the department must soon take action in the matter of re-leasing the islands, but so long as pelagic sealing continues no company can bid intelligently for the privilege of securing seals on the islands. It is therefore most essential to the interests of this Government that some arrangement or agreement now be concluded with the other Governments concerned—particularly Japan—by which pelagic sealing will be stopped, to the end that the department may lease the islands on terms advantageous to the Government and favorable to the conservation of the herd.

The Alaskan fur seals constitute the most valuable fishery resource that any Government in the world ever possessed. It is nothing short of a national disgrace that the herd of four or five million seals which came into our possession when Alaska was acquired from

Russia, and has been under our charge ever since, should have been allowed to dwindle until to-day it numbers less than one-thirtieth its former size. It would seem that only the grossest indifference to the interests of the Government or incompetence verging on the criminal could have permitted this most valuable source of wealth to our people and of revenue to our Government to be dissipated and neglected in the way it has.

This chapter in our history is a most serious indictment of our business capacity. What it has meant may be partially understood when it is stated that our failure to maintain the seal herd has during the past 13 years resulted in a net loss of revenue of not less than $1,600,000; has permitted nearly 300,000 fur seals, having a market value of over $5,700,000, to be appropriated by aliens, and has encouraged those nefarious pelagic operations by which additional fur seals, having a value of at least $5,000,000, have been killed at sea but not recovered; while through the slaughter of breeding females their pups—on the islands, unborn, or prospective—with a potential value of fully $20,000,000, have been sacrificed and wasted.

Knowing as the Bureau of Fisheries does—and as no other foreign bureau or department can—the individual opinions and influence of the various Japanese fishery officials to whose judgment the Government is accustomed to defer in fishery matters, I venture to express the belief that the bureau is in position to aid materially in bringing about a suspension of pelagic sealing on the part of Japanese fishermen and in thus eliminating the most potent factor in the decline of the seal herd. In fact, having in view the intimate personal relations that have long existed between the leading Japanese fishery officials and members of the staff of the bureau, and being aware of the attitude of the former toward pelagic sealing as expressed in a number of private communications, I believe that I could almost guarantee that the bureau, if given authority to deal directly and confidentially with the fishery department of Japan, would speedily be able to bring about the agreement on which the future of our fur-seal herd absolutely depends.

As indicating the attitude of Japanese scholars close to the Government in fishery matters, I may quote the following extract from a personal letter recently received from the head professor of zoology in the Imperial University of Tokyo:

> I can assure you the Japanese Government and people never meant and will never mean to encourage, directly or indirectly, the piratical deeds of the sealers. There can be no doubt whatever that the prohibition of the killing of seals in open sea is necessary for the preservation of the herds. How can it be done effectually and at the same time satisfactorily to all parties concerned? I should think that in order to open a way to the solution of that question an exchange of views in a sincere and open-hearted manner will be quite indispensable. I have no doubt the Japanese Government would gladly join in the conference.

Very respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, December 3, 1909.

MR. JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: I notice that several reports which you have made on matters of an official nature, notably that relating to the pups furnished Mr. Thurber, of the *Bear*, have been addressed to other persons than the head of this bureau. I desire that hereafter you conform to the practice observed by all other employees of this bureau, and address all reports relating to official business directly to "The Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries."

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
June 12, 1910.

THE COMMISSIONER,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 3, 1909, relative to reports of mine on matters of an official nature, particularly that concerning the fur-seal pups furnished Mr. Thurber, of the *Bear*, as having been made to persons other than the head of the bureau.

The communications referred to were written in haste, and I regret that, through oversight or inadvertence, they were irregular, and not in accordance with the general practice of employees of the bureau.

I beg to assure you it will not occur again, and that in the future all communications and reports relating to official business will be addressed directly to "The Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries."

Respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, December 16, 1909.

THE COMMISSIONER:

The Washington Star of December 10 last announced that the Campfire Club of New York had inaugurated a campaign to save the fur-seal herd through legislation designed to prevent the re-leasing of the sealing right, the cessation of all killing on the islands for 10 years except for natives' food, and to secure the opening of negotiations with Great Britain to revise the regulations of the Paris tribunal. As the result of this movement, on December 7, three resolutions were introduced by Senator Dixon of Montana, one of which embodies the provisions before mentioned, the other two calling for the publication of fur-seal correspondence and reports since 1904.

As the object of this movement is at variance with the program of this bureau and of the recommendations of the advisory fur-seal board, notably in the plan to prevent killing and the renewal of the seal-island lease, the advisability is suggested of having Messrs. Townsend, Lucas, and Stanley-Brown use their influence with such members of the Campfire Club as they may be acquainted with, with the object of correctly informing the club as to the exact present status of the seal question and of securing its cooperation to effect the adoption of the measures advocated by this bureau.

The attached letter is prepared having in view the object stated.

BARTON W. EVERMANN.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, December 15, 1909.

THE COMMISSIONER:

There is handed you herewith for your consideration a draft of lease of the seal islands. This has been prepared by Mr. Lembkey and myself in compliance with your request. We have endeavored to make the form of the lease agree with the recommendations recently made by the advisory board, fur-seal service, in conference with the fur-seal board. For your convenience a number of references and citations have been indicated. It is believed that an examination of this tentative draft will enable the Secretary to arrive at the exact form desired.

Respectfully, BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry.

[Memorandum in re changes to be made in contemplated lease of seal islands.]

The present situation on the seal islands is anomalous in that, while the lessee legally enjoys only the right to take such sealskins thereon, through force of circumstances it virtually controls the islands.

The situation at present may be stated briefly as follows:

PRESENT STATUS OF LESSEE.

A. Is granted the right to take fur-seal skins for 20 years from 1890.
B. In consideration of which it is obligated as follows:
   (1) Pays $10.22½ to the Government for each sealskin taken.
   (2) Pays 75 cents to the natives for each sealskin taken.
   (3) Provides necessaries of life to widows, orphans, aged, and infirm.
   (4) Provides a school and school-teacher on each island.
   (5) Provides a physician and drugs for each island.
   (6) Furnishes 75 tons of coal per annum to natives.
   (7) Furnishes salt and barrels for natives ad lib.
   (8) Furnishes sufficient quantity of salt salmon for natives.
   (9) Furnishes dwellings for natives and places of worship.

In addition to these the lessee maintains a store on either island, from which every article necessary for the subsistence of the native

inhabitants must be obtained. These stores are an outgrowth of conditions on the islands, are not mentioned at all in the lease, and the Government has no legal supervision over them. Only such articles as the lessee desires are exposed for sale in these stores, and the requisitions for supplies from San Francisco are prepared by the lessee's agents, who in ordering supplies consult only the interest of the lessee and not those of the natives or the Government. The prices of articles sold are fixed by the lessee without consultation with representatives of the Government, and the latter can only protest should they believe the prices unfair. The matter of fixing the prices of the articles to be sold in the stores is wholly in the hands of the lessee's agents, as invoices are not submitted to the Government's representatives, and the latter have no voice in the question of fixing the prices of supplies, except to protest, as above stated, or to arbitrarily refuse to allow the natives to purchase articles the prices of which may be considered unfair.

This control of the entire food supply of the islands, as well as those of clothing and other necessaries, gives a status to the lessee's agents which amounts to a virtual control of the islands. When the further fact is considered that medical attendance, schools, and the entire maintenance of some 35 or 40 widows and orphans are furnished also by the lessee, it can be seen without argument that control of the islands by the Government, though nominally actual, virtually is subsidiary to that exercised by the lessee.

In marked contrast are the functions exercised by the Government representatives on the islands, which may be stated briefly as follows:

PRESENT STATUS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

A. Act as inspectors of sealing operations, etc., of lessee.
B. Maintain law and order on the islands.
C. Supervise expenditures of natives' earnings and appropriation by Congress for natives' support.
D. Make necessary enumerations of seal herd.

From the above it can be readily seen that the Government's representatives occupy a minor position on the islands. This is not their fault, but the fault of the "system." In former years it seems to have been the policy not only of Congress, but of the departments to delegate to the lessee almost every important function in connection with the islands. Its representatives were consulted regarding the condition of the seal herd, rather than the Government agents; its wishes were ascertained before any new policy was inaugurated. In fact, questions regarding the efficiency of Government employees on the islands have been referred by the department to the lessee's superintendent and his judgment accepted as to whether the Government agent should be dismissed from the service or retained.

This situation can be remedied, and should be, through the medium of the renewal of the contract for the right of taking sealskins from the islands. The following brief suggestions will serve to indicate the changes that should be made to place the control of the reservation in the hands of the Government:

1. All sealskins should be taken under the supervision and direction of the Government's representatives, who should have charge of the native workmen and immediately direct all the operations inci-

dent to the taking of sealskins. The selection and initiation of drives and the class of animals to be killed should be left to the Government's representatives alone. The lessee should have the right to keep a representative on the ground, whose office, however, should be that of an inspector and not that of a superintendent.

2. The lessee should be allowed only the right to purchase such sealskins as shall have been taken under the direction of the Government's representatives and should pay a fixed cash price therefor. Such cash price should be predicated upon the cash value of the obligations performed by the present lessee, all considered, and converted into a cash equivalent.

3. The lessee should be allowed to keep one representative on either island to safeguard its interests, but such representatives shall have no direction of the sealing or the management of the seal herd or the natives.

On the other hand, the Government should assume the following functions through its representatives:

1. Should have direct charge of all the operations of killing seals, without division of authority with the lessee's agents.

2. The Government should assume all support of natives, their control and maintenance, relieving the lessee of the following obligations, which should be converted into cash payments, as stated before: Medical attendance, maintenance of schools, support of widows and orphans, furnishing and maintenance of dwellings.

The physicians for the islands should be detailed from the Marine-Hospital Service. School-teachers should be detailed from the Bureau of Education. All to be under the direct supervision of the agent in charge of the islands.

3. The supplying of necessary food and clothing should be done by the Government, in the same manner as on all Indian or Government reservations. The supplies should be purchased by Government representatives and transported in vessels owned or leased by the Government.

Should this be deemed practical (although there is no question concerning its practicability), the question of supplying food, clothing, etc., through stores maintained by the lessee, should be safeguarded and regulated by appropriate provisions inserted in the new lease.

4. The Government should purchase from the present lessee all the native dwellings and all its storehouses and paraphernalia now on the islands, the price of which to be fixed by appraisement.

The lease should be renewed. It is foolish to abolish killing on land while seals are being killed in the water. Cessation of killing on land means encouragement to pelagic sealing. Should pelagic or sea killing be abolished, it might be well to have a closed season on land as well, to allow the herd to recuperate.

Even should commercial killing be stopped, a certain number of seals each year will have to be killed to furnish fresh meat for the natives. Such seals so killed will have marketable skins. These skins must be disposed of or allowed to rot. They can be disposed of to the best advantage by turning them over to a designated person or corporation, allowing the latter to place them on the market as may seem best. So that, under any condition, a lessee or person or corporation designated to receive such skins as come from the islands is essential.

Furthermore, the present law is mandatory in requiring the Secretary to lease the sealing right in 20-year periods (U. S. Rev. Stats., sec. 1963).

DRAFT OF LEASE OF SEAL ISLANDS PROPOSED BY THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES.

1. This indenture, made the ——— day of ———, 1910, by and between Charles Nagel, Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, of the United States, in pursuance of chapter 3 of title 23, Revised Statutes of United States, and

2. Witnesseth, that the said Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor in consideration of the agreements hereinafter stated hereby leases to the said [lessee] for a term of 20 years from the 1st day of May, 1910, the exclusive right of taking fur-seal skins on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, in the District of Alaska, and to send a vessel or vessels to said islands for such skins.

Law reads, "the exclusive right of taking fur seals" (sec. 1963, R. S.).

3. The said [lessee] in consideration of the rights secured to it under this lease above stated, on its part covenants and agrees to do the things following, that is to say:

4.[1] To pay to the Treasurer of the United States each year during the said term of 20 years, as annual rental, the sum of [not less than $50,000,[2] see 1963, R. S.], which sum may be reduced each year in the proportion that the annual catch of fur-seal skins bears to the maximum legal quota of 100,000.

See secs. 1963, 1962, R. S. U. S. v. N. A. C. Co., 171 U. S., 110.

5. And, in addition thereto, agrees to pay the revenue tax or duty of $2 laid upon each fur-seal skin taken and shipped from said islands.

Sec. 1969, R. S.

6. And, also, to pay said Treasurer, the further sum of [present lease $7.62½] for each and every fur seal taken and accepted by said [lessee] on said islands. And the said [lessee] also agrees to accept all fur-seal skins taken on said islands except such as are, in the opinion of the chief representative of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, unmerchantable. (Insert clause requiring deposit of $50,000 in U. S. bonds.)

Old lease, "taken and shipped."

7. The said [lessee] further agrees to pay annually to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor the sum of $——— per capita for each and every native inhabitant domiciled on said islands, in trust for said native inhabitants, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, in providing for said native inhabitants salt salmon, salt, barrels, dwellings, and repairs thereto, schoolhouses and repairs thereto, schoolteachers, physicians, and necessary and proper medicines

This paragraph provides a money payment in lieu of all obligatinsa of lessee toword natives.

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[1] This paragraph to be considered by Department of Justice.
[2] Make it $60,000 (suggestion).

and medical supplies, and for their comfort, maintenance, and education in general. Such payments are to be made upon the number of native inhabitants shown by the census taken on June 30 of the preceding year, and are to be in lieu of all obligations imposed by existing law upon the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to secure the comfort, maintenance, education, and protection of the said native inhabitants through the lease of the right to take fur-seal skins.

8. The said lessee also agrees to pay to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor on August 1, of each year of its lease, the sum of $1 for each and every fur-seal skin accepted by it during the year preceding that date, which payment shall be used by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor in the employment of native workmen necessary in the business of capturing, driving, killing, and skinning of fur seals and the salting, bundling, and delivering of the skins of such fur seals on board the vessel of the [lessee]. The [lessee] also agrees to provide such tools, paraphernalia, and equipment as may be necessary to insure the proper conduct of the business of taking, curing, and loading fur-seal skins. The said [lessee] also agrees that the selection of rookeries from which seals are to be driven, the driving of seals, the selection of seals to be killed, and the employment, compensation, supervision, and actual direction of the workmen engaged in driving and killing seals shall be left to such representative or representatives of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor as he may designate.

Old payment 75 cents.

This paragraph obtains employment and direction of sealers by Commerce and Labor.

9. And the said [lessee] also agrees to transport to said islands each year a sufficient quantity of suitable provisions, merchandise, coal, and other necessaries for use of said native inhabitants of said islands, which articles shall have been purchased by representatives of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and which shall be delivered by said [lessee] upon the beaches of said islands upon payment of reasonable charge for the transportation of such merchandise.

This paragraph recognizes store and provides for fixing prices.

10. And the said [lessee] also agrees to deliver to said native inhabitants of said islands all schoolhouses and houses used for native dwellings now upon said islands, which houses hereafter shall be and remain the property of the said native inhabitants.

11. The annual rental, together with all other payments to the United States, provided for in this lease, shall be made and paid on or before the 1st day of April of each and every year during the existence of this lease, beginning with the 1st day of April, 1911.

12. The said [lessee] further agrees to employ the native inhabitants of said islands to perform such labor upon the islands as they are fitted to perform, and to pay therefor a fair and just compensation, such as may be fixed by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor; and also agrees to contribute, as far as in its power, all rea-

sonable efforts to secure the comfort, health, education, and promote the morals and civilization of said native inhabitants.

13. The said [lessee] also agrees faithfully to obey and abide by all rules and regulations that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor has heretofore or may hereafter establish or make in pursuance of law concerning the taking of seals on said islands, and concerning the comfort, morals, and other interests of said inhabitants, and all matters pertaining to said islands and the taking of seals within the possession of the United States. It also agrees to obey and abide by any restrictions or limitations upon the right to kill seals that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall judge necessary, under the law, for the preservation of the seal fisheries of the United States; and it agrees that it will not kill, or permit to be killed, so far as it can prevent, in any year a greater number of seals than is authorized by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

14. The said [lessee] further agrees that it will not permit any of its agents to keep, sell, give, or dispose of any distilled spirits or spirituous liquors or opium on either of said islands or the waters adjacent thereto to any of the native inhabitants of said islands, such persons not being a physician and furnishing the same for use as a medicine.

15. The Secretary of Commerce and Labor reserves the right to terminate this lease and all rights of the said [lessee] under the same at any time on full and satisfactory proof that the said [lessee] has violated any of the provisions and agreements of this lease, or in any of the laws of the United States, or any regulation respecting the taking of fur seals or concerning the islands of St. George and St. Paul or the inhabitants thereof.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

———— ————,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

————— ————,
Lessee.

(Seal, if corporation.)

———

OCT. 13, 1909.

[Memorandum in re leasing islands in Alaska for raising foxes.]

In 1879 the following act was passed:

That authority be, and is hereby, given to the Secretary of the Treasury to lease, at his discretion, for a period not exceeding five years such unoccupied and unproductive property of the United States under his control, for the leasing of which there is no authority under existing law, and such leases shall be reported annually to Congress. (Act Mar. 3, 1879, 20 Stat., 383.)

Under this authority various licenses to occupy islands in Alaska were granted by the Treasury Department under the popular but

technically erroneous belief that the District of Alaska was under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department and therefore under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury.

On May 14, 1898 (30 Stat., 409), in the act extending the homestead laws to Alaska, Congress incorporated the following provision:

Provided, That the Annette, Pribilof Islands, and the islands leased or occupied for the propagation of foxes be exempted from the operation of this act.

On April 24, 1900, the Solicitor of the Treasury advised the Secretary of that department that the latter had no authority to lease any of the islands in Alaskan waters for the propagation of foxes, other than those unoccupied portions of the Pribilof Islands and such of the other Alaskan islands as had theretofore been leased, on the ground that other islands were not under his control.

The Solicitor held that the act of May 14, 1898 (before quoted) gave legislative acquiescence to a practice previously unauthorized by law, and that, under the authority of the latter act, the Secretary of the Treasury is justified in continuing leases of such islands as were occupied for fox propagation at the date of the act.

The act of February 14, 1903, creating the Department of Commerce and Labor transferred to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor certain duties theretofore devolved by law upon the Secretary of the Treasury.

Executive order of February 2, 1904, transferred to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor authority to lease such Alaskan islands as the Secretary of the Treasury was empowered to lease by the proviso in the act of May 14, 1898. (Opinion Atty. Gen., June 24, 1905.)

The following Alaskan islands were licensed by the Secretary of the Treasury prior to May 14, 1898: Long Island, Pearl Island, North Semedi Island, South Semedi Island, Little Naked Island, Little Konushi Island, Ukomak Island, Simeonof Island.

The following Alaskan islands had been leased by the Secretary of the Treasury, but the leases or licenses were not in force on May 14, 1898: Elizabeth Island, Marmat Island, Ugak Island, Middleton Island, Carlson Island.

The following islands were occupied without license prior to May 14, 1898: Fairmount Island, Pond Island, Goose Island, Seal Island.

After May 14, 1898, the Secretary of the Treasury licensed the use of several islands not licensed before that date, although some of which were occupied prior to that date. The islands so leased follow: Andrinoca Island, Goose Island, Peak Island, Demonof Island, Pond Island, Smiths Island.

Since coming under control of the Department of Commerce and Labor, the only islands for the use of which money has been received are: Little Konushi Island, Simeonof Island.

The former was paid for by John Sidney Webb, for the use of Leopold Reumann, and the latter by Joseph Hutchinson, for the use of Otto W. Carlson. There is nothing on the records to show that either of these islands is under license at the present time.

The present condition is this: The Department of Commerce and Labor has the power to grant licenses to occupy those islands only which were leased or occupied for fox propagation prior to or at the date of the act of May 14, 1898. Undoubtedly, some are now being used for this purpose. Since 1900, however, no attempt has been made to collect any money therefor or to prevent the use of any islands

for fox-raising purposes. The Departments of Treasury and Commerce and Labor both have regarded these payments as having been made "not so much for the use as for the exclusiveness of the use."

W. I. L.

COMPARISON OF PROPOSED LEASE OF SEAL ISLANDS WITH PRESENT LEASE.

Paragraph 1. Section 1962, Revised Statutes, requires the Secretary of the Treasury to make this lease. The act of February 14, 1903 (32 Stat., 825), however, transfers to "the Department of Commerce and Labor" the "jurisdiction, supervision, and control now possessed and exercised by the Department of the Treasury over the fur-seal * * * fisheries of Alaska."

Paragraph 2. The old lease gives the lessee the "exclusive right to engage in the business of taking fur seals * * *." The draft in hand proposes to give the lessee the exclusive right "of taking fur-seal skins." The intention of the change is to remove the supervision of the business of driving and killing seals from the lessee and place it in the hands of the Secretary's representative—where it should be, as the herd belongs to the Government, and the right to enjoy the usufruct only is leased.

As section 1963, Revised Statutes, requires the Secretary to lease the "right of taking fur seals," it may be questioned whether, in granting a new lease, the permission only to take "fur-seal skins" is in accordance with existing law, and whether it might not lay the Secretary open to a restraining injunction.

Paragraph 3 is similar to that in old lease.

Paragraph 4. The law (sec. 1963, R. S.) requires the lessee to pay an annual rental of "not less than $50,000" to be secured by a deposit of United States bonds "to that amount." The United States Supreme Court, however, in United States *v.* N. A. C. Co., in 171 United States, 110 (?), held that the rental could be reduced proportionately to a reduction of the catch, as provided for in section 1962, Revised Statutes. Under the provisions of this decision, the annual rental of the present lessee is being reduced. It is thought that this reduction feature should be incorporated in the new lease, as it is a matter of existing law.

Paragraph 5. Similar to paragraph in old lease. Required by section 1969, Revised Statutes.

Paragraph 6. This represents a bonus or extra payment by the lessee in addition to such obligations as are required to be assumed by the proposals. It is not required by existing law. The old lease stipulated that this bonus of $7.625 should be paid upon each fur-seal skin "taken and shipped," while the draft in hand requires the payment to be made on each skin taken and accepted. The question as to whether they are acceptable or otherwise is to be left to the Government agent. This seeks to fix the responsibility for the payment of the bonus upon the acceptance of the skins on the islands and not upon the shipment of the skins, which latter does not occur until after all the skins have been "accepted."

As the statutes quoted, however, lay the tax of $2 upon skins "taken and shipped," and is silent as to when the rental falls due, this

feature of having the bonus become due upon the acceptance of the skins on the islands should be considered, with a view of determining whether all responsibility of the lessee for money payments should not occur at the same time.

Paragraph 7. The old lease required the lessee to do the following things:

To furnish 80 tons of coal annually.

To furnish a sufficient number of comfortable dwellings for the natives and to keep such dwellings in proper repair.

To furnish suitable schoolhouses and keep them in repair.

To establish and maintain a school on either island during eight months of each year, the same to be taught by competent teachers, to be paid by the lessee.

To furnish and maintain a suitable house for religious worship.

To provide competent physicians and medical supplies.

To provide necessaries of life for all widows, orphans, aged, and infirm inhabitants.

To provide a sufficient quantity of dried salmon and salt and sufficient number of barrels for preserving meat.

In lieu of this, the draft in hand seeks to reduce these obligations to a cash basis and to require the lessee to pay annually to the Secretary, in trust, an amount of money equal to the value of such obligations, which sum shall be disbursed by the Secretary's agents for the objects detailed above. To arrive at the annual value of these duties, an estimate was made of the lessee's expenditure for one year for the objects stated, and it was found that it amounted to about $48 for each native inhabitant.

The object of the change from direct performance by the lessee to a cash payment is that of relieving the natives of all supervision and control by company employees. As it is at present—by controlling the natives' dwellings and schools, the entire supply of necessaries and what luxuries there may be, and the taking of seals as well—the lessee is the paramount factor on the islands. The natives resent the necessity for being dependent upon the lessee and chafe under the domination over them of the lessee's employees, some of whom, especially those of small salaries, are disposed to be arrogant. An arrangement is sought, in short, whereby the natives in all matters will deal directly with the Government's representatives, and the lessee, in turn, will deal with the Government and not the natives.

Paragraph 8. This paragraph, which is a new one, provides that the driving and killing of seals and the employment of the natives shall be in the hands of the Government's representatives and that the lessee will pay $1 a skin for the natives' labor. The payment by the present lessee for natives' labor is 75 cents a skin, fixed by the Secretary in the annual instructions to the agents, and the driving and killing of the seals is under the direction of the lessee's agents.

Paragraph 9 contains matter not mentioned in the old lease. No supervision of prices of articles to be sold by the lessee in the stores heretofore has been had.

The retail prices on the islands should be a fixed rate above wholesale prices, and power should be given the Government agents to inspect the invoices and ascertain the fairness of the retail or selling prices.

Paragraph 10 provides for the transfer to the natives of their dwellings, which now belong to the lessee. Either the Government or the natives should own these houses without interference from the lessee.

The remaining paragraphs in the draft are the same as in the present lease, with the exception that there is omitted in the draft the paragraph of the old lease fixing the quota for the first year.

The Fur-Seal Fisheries of Alaska in 1909.

By Walter I. Lembkey, *Agent in Charge.*

INTRODUCTION.

After the purchase of Alaska by the United States in 1867, the Pribilof Islands, which were a part of the purchase and of immense value as one of the breeding grounds of the northern fur seal, were set aside as a Government reservation and placed under the administration of the Treasury Department. In 1870, under authority from Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury leased for twenty years to the highest bidder, which was the Alaska Commercial Co., the sole right to take sealskins on these islands. During this period the income to the Government was $6,010,565, representing 1,840,364 sealskins taken by the lessee. In 1890 the contract with the Alaska Commercial Co. having expired, the sealing privilege was again leased for twenty years, the highest bidder in this case being the North American Commercial Co. The number of skins taken during this period was 339,180, for which the Government has received $3,752,415. In 1903, with the creation of the Department of Commerce and Labor, the administration of the seal islands was transferred from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, who, on December 28, 1908, placed their general management under the direct control of the Commissioner of Fisheries.

Under the terms of the contract, which expired May 1, 1910, the lessee paid $10.22\frac{1}{2}$ for each sealskin taken, the Government determining the number and classes of seals that should be killed each year and supervising the killing through its agents stationed on the islands. The company employed the natives to kill the seals, paying them a stated amount per skin, and in addition furnished them, annually, dried salmon, salt and barrels for preservation of the meat supply, 80 tons of coal, comfortable dwellings, schoolhouses, teachers, physicians, and medicines; it furnished also all the necessaries of life to the widows, orphans, and aged and infirm inhabitants. To supplement the natives' earnings, the United States Government appropriated $19,500 each year for their fuel, clothing, and food.

The lessee purchased also, under yearly contract, skins of the arctic foxes, which are found chiefly on the island of St. George. The trapping of these animals and the selection for killing are under direct charge of the Government agents. The entire revenue from the foxes ($5 for each blue pelt and $1 for each white) is applied to the support of the natives.

STATISTICS OF SEALS KILLED.

ST. PAUL ISLAND.

During the lessee's sealing season of 1909, which began June 28 and ended July 31 following, a total of 9,508 sealskins was secured on St. Paul Island. For this there were 35 drives, one of which was made for the additional purpose of securing bachelors for the breeding reservation. For the whole season, the general average of skins obtained in each drive was 271.

During the fall of 1908 and spring of 1909, 7 drives were made on St. Paul Island by the agents to furnish food for the natives. From these, 1,506 skins were secured. This number, together with 32 which had been retained from the previous season and were ordered to be delivered to the lessee by the letter of the Commissioner of Fisheries dated March 11, 1909, and with 7 skins taken from seals killed by the watchmen at Zapadni for food, made a total of 11,053 skins on hand on St. Paul Island on July 31, 1909.

Statement of fur seals killed on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1909.

Date.	Rookery.	Seals killed for natives' food.			Seals killed by lessees for skins.						Aggregate.		
		Large young seals.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Skins rejected, cut.	Accepted, prime.	Rejected.				Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
						Under size.	Cut.	Too large.	Bitten.				
1908.													
Aug. 1	Too large and too small retained from previous season (delivery as part of quota of 1908 authorized by letter of Commissioner of Fisheries, Mar. 11, 1909).	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	....	2	....	32	.....	32	32
8	Gorbatch	183	181	2	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	181	2	183
Oct. 20	Reef and Ketovi	107	105	2	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	105	2	107
29	Tolstoi and Middle Hill	158	158	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	158	....	158
Nov. 3	Northeast Point	718	716	2	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	716	2	718
18	Reef	169	169	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	169	....	169
1909.													
May 29	Sea Lion Rock	93	93	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	93	....	93
June 7	do	78	77	1	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	77	1	78
28	Tolstoi	.....	.....	....	100	....	....	1	....	101	100	1	101
29	Reef	.....	.....	....	175	1	2	....	1	179	175	4	179
July 2	Northeast Point	.....	.....	....	454	1	....	....	....	455	454	1	455
5	Zapadni	.....	.....	....	200	....	....	....	....	200	200	....	200
6	Reef and Gorbatch	.....	.....	....	502	....	3	....	....	505	502	3	505
6	Tolstoi	.....	.....	....	175	....	4	....	2	181	175	6	181
7	Halfway Point	.....	.....	....	76	....	1	....	....	77	76	1	77
8	Northeast Point	.....	.....	....	613	....	4	....	....	617	613	4	617
10	Zapadni	.....	.....	....	273	....	2	....	4	279	273	6	279
11	Reef and Gorbatch	.....	.....	....	288	1	....	....	....	289	288	1	289
11	Tolstoi	.....	.....	....	127	....	1	....	1	129	127	2	129
13	Halfway Point	.....	.....	....	33	....	1	....	....	34	33	1	34
14	Northeast Point	.....	.....	....	207	....	....	....	....	207	207	....	207
15	Reef and Gorbatch	.....	.....	....	250	....	1	....	....	251	250	1	251
15	Tolstoi and Lukanin [1]	.....	.....	....	113	....	....	....	1	114	113	1	114
16	Zapadni	.....	.....	....	275	....	1	....	....	276	275	1	276
19	Northeast Point	.....	.....	....	717	....	1	....	....	718	717	1	718
19	Halfway Point	.....	.....	....	34	....	....	....	....	34	34	....	34
20	Reef and Gorbatch	.....	.....	....	581	....	5	....	2	588	581	7	588
20	Tolstoi	.....	.....	....	43	....	....	....	....	43	43	....	43
21	Zapadni	.....	.....	....	326	....	1	....	4	331	326	5	331
23	Northeast Point	.....	.....	....	472	....	2	....	1	475	472	3	475

[1] Fifty-one of these skins were from Lukanin.

Statement of fur seals killed on St. Paul Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1909—Continued.

Date.	Rookery.	Seals killed for natives' food.			Seals killed by lessees for skins.						Aggregate.		
		Large young seals.	Skins accepted by lessees.	Skins rejected, cut.	Accepted, prime.	Rejected.				Total.	Skins accepted.	Skins rejected.	Total number of seals killed.
						Under size.	Cut.	Too large.	Bitten.				
1909.													
July 23	Halfway Point	.....	.....	....	32	....	....	....	....	32	32	....	32
24	Reef and Gorbatch	.....	.....	....	680	....	4	....	1	685	680	5	685
25	Zapadni	.....	.....	....	242	....	2	....	1	245	242	3	245
27	Northeast Point	.....	.....	....	185	....	1	....	1	187	185	2	187
27	Halfway Point	.....	.....	....	16	....	....	....	....	16	16	....	16
28	Reef and Gorbatch	.....	.....	....	452	....	1	....	....	453	452	1	453
30	Zapadni	.....	.....	....	579	....	6	....	....	585	579	6	585
31	Reef and Gorbatch	.....	.....	....	654	....	4	....	2	660	654	6	660
31	Ketovi and Lukanin	.....	.....	....	110	....	....	....	....	110	110	....	110
31	Northeast Point	.....	.....	....	329	....	1	....	....	330	329	1	330
31	Halfway Point	.....	.....	....	19	....	....	....	....	19	19	....	19
31	Zapadni	.....	.....	....	40	....	1	....	....	41	40	1	41
31	Gorbatch	.....	.....	....	60	....	2	....	....	62	60	2	62
	Watchmen's skins from Zapadni	7	7	....	.....	....	....	....	....	.....	7	....	7
	Total	1,513	1,506	7	9,432	33	51	3	21	9,540	10,938	115	11,053

ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

On St. George Island during the lessee's killing season of 1909, which covered the period from June 19 to July 31 of that year, 2,792 seals were killed. This number represents 14 drives, with an average of 199 skins obtained in each drive.

During the fall of 1908 and spring of 1909 (the so-called "food-killing" season), 521 seals were killed for natives' food by watchmen and in drives made by the Government agents, and these skins also were delivered to the lessee. There were delivered to the lessee, under the authority previously quoted, 5 sealskins retained by the Government agents from the preceding season, because they exceeded the weight allowed by the regulations.

There were on hand, therefore, on St. George Island on July 31, 1909, 3,318 sealskins, gathered from the sources enumerated.

Statement of fur seals killed on St. George Island, Alaska, during the year ended July 31, 1909.

Date.	Rookery.	Seals killed for natives' food.		Seals killed by lessees for skins, accepted, prime.	Aggregate.	
		Large young seals.	Skins accepted by lessees.		Skins accepted.	Total number of seals killed.
	Overweight skins retained from previous season (delivery as part of quota of 1908 authorized by letter of Commissioner of Fisheries, dated Mar. 11, 1909)			5	5	5
1908.						
Aug. 7	North (food drive)	67	67		67	67
7	Zapadni (watchman)	5	5		5	5
Oct. 19	Staraya Artel	23	23		23	23
21	North	32	32		32	32
23	East	22	22		22	22
24	Zapadni (watchman)	6	6		6	6
30	Staraya Artel	35	35		35	35
31	Zapadni (watchman)	6	6		6	6
Nov. 2	East	18	18		18	18
3	North	91	91		91	91
7	Zapadni (watchman)	6	6		6	6
13	North and Staraya Artel	94	94		94	94
17	do	17	17		17	17
23	Staraya Artel	20	20		20	20
1909.						
June 5	Zapadni (watchman)	2	2		2	2
5	Staraya Artel	26	26		26	26
12	Zapadni (watchman)	2	2		2	2
15	North	26	26		26	26
19	Zapadni (watchman)	2	2		2	2
22	North (food drive)	18	18		18	18
24	East (watchman)	1	1		1	1
26	Zapadni (watchman)	2	2		2	2
29	Zapadni			32	32	32
July 2	East, North, and Staraya Artel			312	312	312
6	do			350	350	350
8	Zapadni			42	42	42
10	East, North, and Staraya Artel			201	201	201
14	do			242	242	242
16	Zapadni			31	31	31
19	East, North, and Staraya Artel			446	446	446
21	Zapadni			42	42	42
23	East, North, and Staraya Artel			404	404	404
27	do			260	260	260
31	do			368	368	368
31	Zapadni			62	62	62
	Total[1]	521	521	2,797	3,318	3,318

[1] Four skins of this year's catch exceeding the limit of 8½ pounds in weight are retained in salt, subject to future disposition. The number available for shipment the current year is therefore 3,314.

TOTAL SEALSKINS SHIPPED.

From St. Paul Island, on August 14, 1909, on the steamer *Homer*, there were shipped 11,054[1] sealskins, 32 of which were chargeable to the quota of 1908 and 11,022 to that of 1909. From St. George Island there were shipped on the same vessel 3,314 sealskins, all chargeable to the quota of 1909, with the exception of 5 skins credited to 1908 under the authority already quoted.

The total shipment of skins in 1909 from both islands, as detailed in the foregoing, was 14,368, of which 14,331 are credited to the quota of 1909, and 37 to the quota of the previous year, 1908.

[1] To the season's catch of 11,053 on St. Paul Island, one skin from a subsequent food drive was added to make an even number, as required for shipment.

OBSERVANCE OF REGULATIONS.

On St. Paul Island the lessee took only 1 skin which failed to weig at least 5 pounds, and none were taken weighing over 8½ pounds, the limits prescribed by the department. It is doubtful, furthermore, whether the 1 skin was not the result of an accident in clubbing or was not taken from a seal that had died from overheating during a drive. As the good faith of the lessee was undeniably demonstrated in every particular this 1 skin was permitted to be included in the shipment.

On St. George Island 4 skins exceeding 8½ pounds in weight were taken, and these are now retained in salt on that island awaiting instructions.

WEIGHTS OF SKINS.

In addition to being weighed on the islands the lessee's take of skins in 1909, when shipped to London, was classified by the factor, and the weights of the various classes ascertained there. As weighed on the islands there is a variation among the skins in respect to their degree of moisture. The scales, moreover, register only to the quarter pound; and the recording of the weights in the midst of the noise in the salt house incident to salting and weighing at the same time, with the subsequent necessary transcription and classification from notebooks, are further factors operating against perfect accuracy in the weights. Deficiencies in the following table are explained by these conditions. As weighed in London, on the other hand, the skins contain some of the salt that was used to cure them. Notwithstanding the impracticability of close comparison, however, it will be interesting to observe how the island weights in general correspond to the London weights taken by a disinterested person.

Island weights of skins, 1909 catch.

Weight.	Number of skins.			Weight.	Number of skins.		
	St. Paul Island.	St. George Island.	Total.		St. Paul Island.	St. George Island.	Total.
Pounds.				*Pounds.*			
4	.....	1	1	7¼	595	15	610
4¼	1	.....	1	7½	779	95	874
4½	2	12	14	7¾	359	4	363
4¾	13	1	14	8	424	57	481
5	493	380	873	8¼	195	1	196
5¼	438	39	477	8½	389	11	400
5½	903	507	1,410	8¾	9	.....	9
5¾	859	26	885	9	7	3	10
6	1,373	1,017	2,390	9¼	.....	1	1
6¼	946	38	984	9½	.....	1	1
6½	1,376	481	1,857	10	1	1	2
6¾	774	33	807	10½	1	1	2
7	1,045	598	1,643	14½	1	.....	1

NOTE.—On St. Paul Island no skins weighing more than 8½ pounds and only 1 weighing less than 5 pounds were taken during the lessee's killing season. On St. George Island 4 skins weighing more than 8½ pounds were taken during the lessee's killing season, and are held by the Government agents on the island pending orders for disposition. With these exceptions, under and over weight skins appearing in the table were taken in drives for the natives' food or are hold-overs from the previous season.

London weights of skins, 1909 catch.

[London, Nov. 10, 1909. Subject to recount. North American Commercial Co., 1909 catch, 14,368.]

Number of skins.	Weight.	Per cent.	Classification.
	Lbs. oz.		
1	13 0	.....	Middling.
23	9 0	0.16	Middlings and smalls.
290	8 3	2.04	Smalls.
1,224	7 1	8.61	Large pups.
4,097	6 8	28.83	Middling pups.
5,248	5 13	36.93	Small pups.
1,096	5 6	7.71	Ex. small pups.
11	5 1	.08	Ex. ex. small pups.
		84.36	
3	9 0		Middlings and smalls, low.
65	7 5		Smalls, low.
189	6 7	6.62	Large pups, low.
401	5 14		Middling pups, low.
253	5 7		Small pups, low.
30	5 0		Ex. small pups, low.
1	10 0		Middlings and smalls, cut.
28	7 10		Smalls, cut.
93	6 8		Large pups, cut.
244	5 13	4.78	Middling pups, cut.
251	5 6		Small pups, cut.
64	5 0		Ex. small pups, cut.
9	7 10		Smalls, rubbed.
50	7 0		Large pups, rubbed.
186	6 6	3.97	Middling pups, rubbed.
254	5 12		Small pups, rubbed.
65	5 7		Ex. small pups, rubbed.
38	.....	.27	Faulty.
14,214			
5	.....	.....	Smalls.
15	.....	.....	Large pups.
47	.....	.....	Middling pups.
58	.....	.....	Small pups.
11	.....	.....	Ex. small pups.
136			

NOTE.—The statement furnished from London omits some weights, but, as will be observed, 136 of these are included in the classification.

REJECTIONS FROM DRIVES.

On St. Paul 13,656 animals appeared in the drives during the lessee's sealing season, of which 9,508, or 69 per cent, were killed. There were released from the killing fields 1,110 small and 1,185 large seals, in addition to 1,915 marked or branded seals, composed of 1,315 2-year-olds and 600 3-year-olds. The individual killings varied in the percentages of seals killed from 81 to 39 per cent.

On St. George, during the same season, 4,484 animals appeared in the drives, of which 2,863, or 63 per cent, were killed. There were released 555 large and 306 small seals in addition to the dismissal of 760 marked seals the ages of which were not segregated.

In 1909, killing on St. Paul was 4 per cent closer, and on St. George 17 per cent closer, than it was in 1908.

Statement of seals killed and seals dismissed from drives during lessee's sealing season on St. Paul Island, 1909.

Date.	Rookery.	Killed.	Dismissed.				Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Small.	Large.	Branded.			
					Two years.	Three years.		
1909.								
June 28	Tolstoi	101	10	73	.....	.....	184	54
29	Reef	179	2	117	92	58	448	39
July 2	Northeast Point	455	70	71	159	40	795	57
5	Zapadni	200	9	33	33	11	286	69
6	Reef and Gorbatch	505	16	81	36	11	649	77
6	Tolstoi	181	43	31	5	8	268	67
7	Halfway Point	77	8	35	2	1	123	62
8	Northeast Point	617	89	47	43	10	806	75
10	Zapadni	279	49	23	14	3	368	76
11	Reef and Gorbatch	289	25	12	17	10	353	81
11	Tolstoi	129	23	4	7	.....	163	79
13	Halfway Point	34	4	20	3	1	62	54
14	Northeast Point	207	64	14	22	7	314	65
15	Reef and Gorbatch	251	74	8	39	14	386	65
15	Tolstoi and Lukanin	114	12	5	12	9	152	75
16	Zapadni	276	85	14	40	37	452	61
19	Northeast Point	718	190	27	100	31	1,066	67
19	Halfway Point	34	1	8	6	.....	49	69
20	Reef and Gorbatch	588	80	35	96	27	826	71
20	Tolstoi	43	4	1	7	.....	55	78
21	Zapadni	331	38	21	41	21	452	73
23	Northeast Point	475	53	48	90	46	712	66
23	Halfway Point	32	.....	15	5	4	56	57
24	Reef and Gorbatch	685	40	81	94	41	941	72
25	Zapadni	245	22	11	27	5	310	79
27	Northeast Point	187	3	58	71	36	355	52
27	Halfway Point	16	.....	17	5	.....	38	42
28	Reef and Gorbatch	453	18	26	56	31	584	77
30	Zapadni	585	39	38	46	29	737	79
31	Reef and Gorbatch	660	21	81	70	31	863	76
31	Northeast Point	330	15	75	42	58	520	63
31	Halfway Point	19	.....	7	3	4	33	57
31	Zapadni	41	3	14	14	8	80	51
31	Gorbatch	62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
31	Ketovi and Lukanin	110	.....	34	18	8	170	64
	Total	9,508	1,110	1,185	1,315	600	13,656	69

Classification of large seals dismissed during lessee's sealing season on St. Paul Island, 1909.

Date.	Rookeries.	Four years.	Five years.	Six years.	Seven years.	Adult.	Cows.
1909.							
June 28	Tolstoi	8	22	22	21		
29	Reef	20	41	39	17		
July 2	Northeast Point	16	21	22	12		
5	Zapadni	1	7	12	13		
6	Reef and Gorbatch	25	16	25	15		
6	Tolstoi	3	6	19	3		
7	Halfway Point	5	14	12	4		
8	Northeast Point	14	11	13	9		
10	Zapadni	2	8	10	3		
11	Reef and Gorbatch	3	3	5	1		
11	Tolstoi	2	2				
13	Halfway Point	5	7	7	1		
14	Northeast Point	8	3	3			
15	Reef and Gorbatch	3	3	2			
15	Tolstoi and Lukanin		2	3			
16	Zapadni	1		10	3		
19	Northeast Point	12	9	2	4		
19	Halfway Point			4	4		
20	Reef and Gorbatch	5	6	6	18		
20	Tolstoi				1		
21	Zapadni	3	8	8	2		
23	Northeast Point	12	15	11	10		
23	Halfway Point	1	6	5	3		
24	Reef and Gorbatch	16	16	32	13	4	
25	Zapadni	8	3				1
27	Northeast Point	6	9	29	4	10	
27	Halfway Point		3	7	7		
28	Reef and Gorbatch	2	4	7	3	10	14
30	Zapadni	7	16	7	8		10
31	Reef and Gorbatch	9	18	23	23	8	4
31	Ketovi and Lukanin	3	14	6	10	1	
31	Halfway Point		4	2	1		
31	Northeast Point	13	27	22	5	8	18
31	Zapadni	1	6	2	5		3
	Total	214	330	377	223	41	50

Statement of seals killed and seals dismissed from drives during lessee's sealing season on St. George Island, 1909.

Date.	Rookeries.	Killed.	Dismissed.			Total driven.	Percentage killed.
			Large.	Small.	Branded.		
1909.							
June 5	Staraya Artel	26	35			61	42.6
15	North and Staraya Artel	26	50			76	34.0
22	....do	18	74			92	19.5
24	East	1	70			71	1.4
29	Zapadni	32	38			70	45.7
July 2	East, North, and Staraya Artel	312	36	28	67	443	70.4
6	....do	350	27	66	55	498	70.2
8	Zapadni	42	13	2	4	61	68.8
10	East, North, and Staraya Artel	201	21	28	37	287	70.0
14	....do	242	7	41	70	360	67.2
16	Zapadni	31	1	4	12	48	64.5
19	East, North, and Staraya Artel	446	15	39	146	646	69.0
21	Zapadni	42	21			63	66.6
23	East, North, and Staraya Artel	404	49	33	111	597	67.6
27	....do	260	20	45	114	439	59.2
31	....do	368	57	20	137	582	63.2
31	Zapadni	62	21		7	90	68.8
	Total[1]			306	760		63.0

[1] This total includes 71 seals taken during the lessee's season by the natives for food, leaving the total killed by the lessee 2,792, or 62.3 per cent of the total driven.

Classification of seals dismissed from drives during lessee's sealing season on St. George Island, 1909.

Date.	Rookeries.	Large.				Cows.
		Four years.	Five years.	Six years.	Young bulls.	
1909.						
June 5	Staraya Artel	20	5	2	8	
15	North and Staraya Artel	14	14	15	7	
22	do	13	14	18	29	
24	East	22	17	15	16	
26	North and Staraya Artel	8	7	9	14	
29	Zapadni	13	4	4	17	
July 2	East, North, and Staraya Artel	18	3	10	5	
6	do	9	4	7	7	
8	Zapadni	1	5	5	2	
10	East, North, and Staraya Artel	5	5	5	6	
14	do	5	2			
16	Zapadni				1	
19	East, North, and Staraya Artel	13	2			
21	Zapadni	2	6	3	10	
23	East, North, and Staraya Artel	22	16	9	2	
27	do	7	7	6		
31	do	30	18	9		21
31	Zapadni	2	7	2	10	2
	Total	204	136	119	134	23

RESERVATION OF BACHELORS FOR BREEDING.

The quota of 2 and 3 year old bachelors to be marked and reserved for breeding purposes consisted of 1,000 of each of the foregoing classes in the proportion of 800 of each for St. Paul and 200 of each for St. George Islands. These seals are driven and marked before the lessee is allowed to kill for skins.

On St. Paul seals did not appear in sufficient numbers to justify the marking of these animals until June 24. Thereafter drives were made as often as conditions justified, and the breeding-reserve quota finally was obtained on June 28. A list of the drives made on St. Paul, with the number marked from each, follows:

Breeding reserve of bachelors, St. Paul Island, 1909.

Date.	Rookeries.	Two years.	Three years.
1909.			
June 24	Reef	358	348
27	Northeast Point	333	318
28	Zapadni	109	114
28	Tolstoi		20
	Total	800	800

On St. George the marking of the 400 young males was completed early in the season, the last of the quota being secured on or about June 26. The exact dates upon which the seals were marked and the number secured in each drive are not at hand.

QUESTION OF CLOSE KILLING.

After the Alaska Commercial Co. had closed its 20-year lease of the sealing privilege in 1889 there were intimations that to secure its quota in the last year the lessee was forced to drain the herd of every killable bachelor and to resort to unlawful practices to get 100,000 skins. The lease of the North American Commercial Co. closed practically in 1909, when its last quota of skins was taken from the islands. To anticipate any questions that may be raised concerning the conduct of sealing during the last year of this as of the former lessee in 1889, it is desirable to discuss the matter here with a view of showing whether, in securing its quota of 1909, the last lessee either violated any law or regulation or did any injury to the herd.

It must be held in mind at the outset that no seals were killed on the islands in 1909 at any time except in the immediate presence of one or more Government agents who scrutinized the killing closely and were ready to take active measures to secure enforcement of the law should any violation of it be attempted. Among the laws to be observed are prohibitions against the killing of any female seals or of male seals under 1 year of age. In addition, the regulations prescribe a total quota of 15,000, prohibit the killing of male seals with skins under 5 pounds or over 8½ pounds in weight, and of seals that have been marked and released for breeding purposes. All of these regulations were faithfully enforced by the Government agents, who were actually present at each killing, and on the score of compliance with existing law the lessee may be said to be blameless.

There remains, however, the other question, whether, even while observing the law, the lessee killed closer than the safety of the herd would permit; or, in other words, whether the regulations are so loose as to allow such close killing in 1909 as would endanger the future increase of the seals. It may be well to consider this briefly.

It has been stated already that killing on St. Paul Island in 1909 averaged 69 per cent of all seals driven and on St. George Island 63 per cent. This killing was 4 per cent closer on St. Paul and 17 per cent closer on St. George than in 1908, which is to say a killing of about 66 per cent of all seals driven on the two islands. One-third, or 33 per cent, of all animals driven were released. With one animal released out of every three driven it is submitted that killing in 1909 was not close enough to endanger in any way the safety or future increase of the seal herd.

Another point of consideration is the number of animals released from the killing fields in 1909 as contrasted with the number necessary to be released to prevent decrease in the number of breeding bulls present in 1909. In that year 1,399 breeding bulls were engaged actively with harems. The average life of the breeding bull is five years after he begins full rookery service at eight years. As the herd would thus renew itself in five years, a yearly diminution of one-fifth occurs and is necessary to be provided for. As the herd includes practically 1,400 breeding bulls, it would be necessary to insure that at least one-fifth of this number be provided five years hence, or 280 animals.

During the season of 1909 there occurred 5,831 rejections of seals from the drives. Of these 1,740 were too large to be killed there-

after and 4,091 too small to be killed or included in the breeding reserve. In addition to these there were a number of killables not driven at all, as on August 4 we discovered hauled among the cows on Tolstoi a drive of approximately 600 bachelors, the existence of which theretofore was unknown to the lessee. As the killing season closed on July 31, these animals could not be killed this season.

When we consider that only 280 bulls are required to mature each year to maintain the herd of breeding bulls at its present numbers and that at least 5,000 young males are believed to have survived the season, it can not be believed that the killing in 1909 was too close.

We must now discuss the question whether killing in 1909 was as close as in 1889. In the latter year no record of the number of the seals released from the killing fields was made. It is therefore not possible to ascertain the percentage of seals killed in 1889, nor to compare critically the killing of that year with that of 1909, for which we have exact data.

The main point of difference, however, between the methods practiced in the two years lies in the fact that regulations were in force in 1909 specially designed to prevent too close killing which were not in existence in 1889 and which in fact were not thought of in that year. Before any killing by the lessee was allowed in 1909, 2,000 young killable males were reserved for breeding by the agents and marked so that thereafter they would be readily discernible by the clubbers. This reservation of 2,000 represents 13 per cent of the quota allowed the lessee. So that, before the lessee took a single skin in 1909, the herd was safeguarded by a reservation of males equal to 13 per cent of the quota. Under such regulations as these it is impossible at the present time for killing to be too close, even if, after reserving these killables, the lessee "swept the hauling grounds" to secure its quota. It could not sweep them so clean as to eliminate this 13 per cent breeding reserve unless the marked seals themselves were killed, and there is plenty of evidence to show that these marked seals were carefully guarded when they appeared in the drives.

Such killing as was done in 1909 was conducted strictly in accordance with law and regulations. The Government prescribed a quota of 15,000 for the lessee and virtually said: "After we have secured our breeding reserve, you are allowed to kill every seal on the hauling grounds that may be taken under existing law and regulations until you get your quota. We will see that you do not kill our breeding reserve; the law prohibits you killing females or seals under 1 year of age, and if you take skins weighing less than 5 or more than 8½ pounds we will not allow you to ship them, but will deduct them from the quota you would otherwise be allowed to ship." This was the exact situation in 1909, and in the killing no law or regulation was disregarded. During the lessee's killing season only 1 skin on St. Paul Island and 4 on St. George Island were taken contrary to regulations out of a total of over 12,000, and these seals were killed not designedly, but through accident.

From the foregoing it can be summed up: First, that every law and regulation safeguarding killing in 1909 was faithfully enforced; second, that one seal out of every three driven by the lessee in that year was released; and, third, that before any killing by the lessee was allowed a breeding reservation equal to 13 per cent of the quota

was created and carefully guarded from slaughter. This, in my opinion, is sufficient evidence to convince even the skeptical that any charge of irregularity concerning the killing in 1909 can not be substantiated.

It is foolish to curtail the killing of bachelors on land while the islands are surrounded by a large fleet of pelagic schooners, hardly 3 miles offshore, ready to kill every seal that leaves the rookeries to go to sea. After providing an ample breeding reserve, it is good policy to kill every seal that may be killed with due regard to the safety of the herd. Restriction of killing on land should be discussed only after sea killing is stopped.

Personally I am in favor of killing on land even closer than 66 per cent, and of continuing such close killing until either the seals are reduced to a small number or the question of pelagic sealing is settled favorably.

MAINTENANCE OF QUOTA.

ANNUAL CATCHES SINCE 1903.

Since 1904 the annual quota of skins has been maintained at approximately 15,000. From this the natural assumption would be that the breeding herd of females has not diminished during this period, as otherwise the stock of bachelors would have decreased coincidently.

It is generally accepted that the sexes of seals are born in equal numbers. If the herd of bachelors has remained stable without diminution during these years, we must accept the conclusion that the number of breeding females which produce these bachelors also have remained at a state of equilibrium, notwithstanding the heavy killing of females in the open sea by pelagic sealers.

Since 1903 the annual catches of bachelors on the islands have been as follows, the figures given representing the annual shipments of skins from the islands by the lessee:

1903	19,292
1904	13,128
1905	14,368
1906	14,476
1907	14,964
1908	14,996
1909	14,331

From an examination of these figures it appears that the lessee took over 19,000 skins in 1903; that its catch dropped to 13,000 in 1904, and that annually thereafter it killed practically 15,000 seals until 1909.

If these figures were susceptible of no other explanation than that the number of bachelors had not diminished, this conclusion would have to be accepted without argument. If, however, other facts have relevancy in a consideration of the cause of this stability of the catch, they should be examined before the conclusion is accepted that no decrease in the breeding herd has occurred during this period.

ANALYSIS OF CONDITIONS.

Previous to 1904 no restriction upon the size of bachelors to be killed was enforced. The annual quotas allowed were so ample as to carry permission to kill every available bachelor appearing in the drives. In its operations the lessee killed every 4-year-old, every 3-year-old, and every 2-year-old driven up that had not a defective skin. Its rejections of seals from the killing fields were confined to those seals only with bad skins, to those young wigs too large for the market, or to such few yearlings as appeared in the last drives of the season. All other male seals were killed. In 1903 the rejections of small seals numbered only 1,185 on St. Paul, and at least one-fourth of these were dismissed from the two food drives made by the Government agents during the period between August 1 and 10. With so small a proportion of rejections in 1903 and the large catch of that year, we must conclude that the lessee killed almost every available seal that appeared. Furthermore it anticipated its next year's catch by killing all of the 2-year-olds that hauled up and that could be driven. Such as escaped were killable the following year as 3-year-olds. The lessee, in plain terms, was "living from hand to mouth," killing all it could get and saving none; depending for its next year's catch solely upon the increment of 2-year-olds and such larger seals as had accidentally escaped clubbing the year previous. Such practice could be termed too close killing.

In 1904, on the other hand, occurred for the first time the enforcement of the regulations designed to prevent too close killing, by the exemption of 4-year-olds from slaughter, the establishment of a minimum weight of 5½ pounds on sealskins to be taken, and a reservation of 2,000 young males for breeding purposes. These regulations of 1904 changed completely the conditions surrounding the killing of seals on the islands. It reduced the catch in one year from 19,000 to 13,000, created through dismissals a reserve of 7,500 young males to maintain the quota for succeeding years, and provided means for insuring recruits to the rapidly decreasing stock of breeding bulls. The change amounted to a transition from the condition of practical nonregulation of killing to one of careful regulation.

Since the quota was reduced in one year (1903–4) from 19,000 to 13,000, not by natural conditions, but by the enforcement of arbitrary restrictions upon the catch, it might well follow that the catches of other years as well were influenced by other agencies than the natural state of the herd. For this purpose a brief résumé of the conditions attending the several years' killings will be made:

1903.—The lessee shipped over 19,000 skins, and on St. Paul Islan only 1,185 small seals were released from the killing field.[1]

1904.—After the enforcement of the regulations requiring the exemption of 4-year-olds from killing, the establishment of a 5½-pound minimum weight, and the reservation of young males for breeders, the number of skins shipped as quota was reduced to 13,128. On the other hand, the rejection of small seals amounted to 10,181. These 10,181 rejections created a reserve of surplus bachelors which, as 3-year-olds, would aid the catch of 1905, and emphatically relieved the situation as regards close killing.

[1] Records of rejections on St. George for 1903 are incomplete.

In view of this large number of rejections it is not proper to say that the lessee could not have secured its quota in this year. The reason why 15,000 were not taken instead of only 13,000 is due to the fact that such great caution was enjoined upon the lessee in securing the enforcement of the new regulations that seals which were properly killable were allowed to escape.

1905.—In this year 14,368 skins were shipped. The St. Paul quota of 13,000 was secured, with 59 per cent killed of the whole number driven, while the St. George Island quota, 2,000, was not obtained. As the percentage of killed on this latter island was, however, only 26, it must be concluded that enough eligible seals escaped from the killing fields to have filled the quota.

In 1905 the reserve of bachelors was further maintained by over 10,000 rejections of small seals made during the lessee's sealing season. As the quota of 1905 was aided by the large number of rejections in the preceding year, so the 1906 quota must be considered as aided by a similar number of rejections in 1905.

1906.—For this year a quota of 14,476 was shipped, of which 12,536 were secured from St. Paul Island toward its quota of 13,000, while 1,940 were shipped from St. George Island toward its quota of 2,000. The percentage killed on St. Paul was 59, while on St. George it was 51, an increase on the latter island over the preceding year of 25 per cent. In this year occurred, in addition, an important change in the regulations, namely, that the minimum weight of skins to be taken was reduced from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 pounds. This had the effect of allowing the killing of several thousand young seals which heretofore would have been released and included in the reserve of young males from which a portion of the next year's catch would be obtained. With this material aid, however, the quota on St. Paul was not secured.

We find here a decided decrease in the bachelor herd. To secure the quota on St. George Island killing had to be 25 per cent closer than the year previous, even when aided by the reduction in the limit of weight and the savings of bachelors from previous years. In spite of the reduction in weight the quota could not be obtained on St. Paul Island. Had the number of bachelors in existence remained the same in 1906 as in 1905 the reduction of the minimum weight and the consequent inclusion among the killables of several thousands of young males of a size hitherto exempt would have made it possible to secure the quota before the expiration of the sealing season. But it is a fact that it was not possible to secure the St. Paul quota even by sealing until the last day and with the minimum weight lowered to 5 pounds. This certainly shows that fewer bachelors were on St. Paul in 1906 than formerly.

The rejections from the sealing fields in 1906, of course, were affected by this lowering of the weight, and were 7,217, as against over 10,000 in 1905, a loss of over 3,000. This, however, was still large enough to save a number of bachelors for the next year's quota.

1907.—Practically the entire quota of 15,000 was obtained and was secured before the end of this season, the condition which should have occurred in 1906 had not a scarcity of bachelors been encountered then. St. Paul's quota of 12,400 was obtained by July 28, while St. George's 2,600 was obtained by July 24. The lessee killed more closely, however, as shown by the percentages of killed—68

for St. Paul and 44 for St. George. The rejections from the killing fields, also, were less numerous by 2,500 than in 1906. This shows at least that the seals had not increased. It is not out of the way, however, to infer that no decrease in the bachelor herd had occurred since 1906.

1908.—The entire quota of 15,000, practically, was obtained this year, but only after sealing on St. Paul until the end of the season. The St. George quota, however, was obtained by July 25. The percentage of killing on St. Paul was 5 less than the year before, while that of St. George was 2 greater. The number of small rejections in this year was 6,092, or in round numbers 1,300 more than the preceding year. There is everything in the killing statistics of this year to show that the bachelor herd did not diminish in the interval between 1907 and 1908.

1909.—A decided decrease is apparent in the record of this season. Not only was the quota not secured, but the rejections from the killing field were less than at any time since 1903.

The number of skins secured and shipped was 14,368, of which 37 were charged to the preceding year. The percentage of killed was 69 on St. Paul, an increase of 4 per cent, while on St. George it was 63, or 17 per cent more than 1908. The number of small rejections was only 1,416 in addition to 2,675 rejections of marked bachelors, or 4,091 in all as against 6,092 the year before.

As, outside of the breeding reserve, only 1,416 rejections of small seals were made in 1909, we may safely consider the bachelor reserve to have been almost eliminated.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION OF CONDITIONS.

After this more or less detailed analysis of the killings during the years since 1903 we may summarize the main points as follows:

1. The quotas for 1904 and 1905 were not obtained because of stringent enforcement of regulations designed to prevent close killing.

2. These regulations were partially relieved of their severity in 1906, when the minimum weight was reduced to 5 pounds. Nevertheless, in this year the quota was not secured because of scarcity of seals.

3. In 1907 and 1908 the quotas were secured without special difficulty, although the rejections from drives were lessened from the number in 1906.

4. In 1909 not only was the quota not secured, but the rejections were less than at any time since 1903, and the percentage of killing was higher.

We may reasonably infer that in 1904 a quota of 15,000 was less than the herd would have afforded had the same methods of close killing been continued as were followed in 1903 and previously. From the statistics we might gather that the catch of 1904 under the same conditions would have been nearly what it was in 1903. Yet we can not say that 19,000 seals, or anything near that number, could have been secured in 1909. In other words, the herd has gradually decreased since 1903 from a point where it allowed a catch of over 19,000 to a point, in 1909, where it could not afford 16,500, if we count the bachelors marked for breeding as a portion of the yield of the herd. We have marked decreases in 1906 and again in 1909, with a probable equilibrium between those years. But the

trend of the bachelor herd has been toward gradual decrease, and this can be better understood when an observation is extended over a period of years.

The question presents itself: How, if a gradual decrease occurred, was the quota maintained at approximately the same number? The answer is that the quota of 15,000, when first fixed, was smaller than the yield of the herd; that the quotas of the years following were aided in large part from the rejections from previous years, and that not until 1909 did the herd diminish to a point where it could not yield 15,000 skins annually. It was really not until 1909 that the rejections became practically nil, and even with that the quota could not be filled.

It is with considerable hesitancy that I advance this conclusion that the decrease in the herd of breeding seals has been less rapid than would otherwise appear. During the period following 1903 whole rookery areas gradually have been denuded of breeding seals, the rookeries themselves have shrunk, and massed areas of breeding seals have become smaller. Every other indication would point to the supposed fact that the breeding herd had diminished more rapidly than the catches of bachelors would indicate. As it stands, however, a material decrease in the herd is apparent in the inability of the lessee this last season to secure a quota of skins which could have been taken without undue effort in 1903.

EFFECT OF SAVING 2-YEAR-OLDS.

When, in 1904, the catch of skins was reduced by regulation from 19,000 to 13,000, a large number of small bachelors was released. As stated heretofore, this catch of 13,000 did not represent by any means all the skins the lessee could have taken had the same methods of close killing as practiced in preceding years been permitted. Had the lessee been allowed in 1904 to sweep the hauling grounds of every bachelor appearing there, as in 1903, the catch for 1904 would nearly have equaled that of the preceding year.

As this decrease in the catch in 1904 had its cause solely in the enforcement of certain arbitrarily restrictive measures, it had no connection with the number of breeding females in the herd. Its effect was to create a reserve of young animals numbering probably 7,500.

The result of the creation of this reserve was to place the herd in a condition which represented more nearly what might be termed its normal status, and, secondly, it insured a certain stability of the next year's catch of skins independently of that year's increment of young killables.

The normal status of the bachelor herd is reached when the greater portion of the take of skins consists of 3-year-olds. The reason for this lies in the fact that a 3-year-old has a prime skin that brings the highest price in the market. As the 3-year-old skin is more valuable than that of a 2-year-old, it follows that proper management should maintain such conditions as would result in the catch being secured mainly for the prime or 3-year-old skins, rather than from the less valuable 2-year-olds. This can be done only by the maintenance of a reserve of 2-year-olds which, being protected from slaughter at that age, would furnish the proper number of 3-year-old skins the following season.

The immunizing from killing of this large number of 2-year-olds in 1904 resulted in bringing nearly that number of prime 3-year-olds back to the islands in 1905. The effect was to permit the catch of 1905 to be composed of 50 per cent of prime 3-year-old skins, whereas previously only a thousand or so of 3-year-olds were included. That the value of the company's catch was enhanced by these methods of selection is shown by the fact that the average selling price of their skins in 1904 and 1905 was $37, while in 1903 it was only about $29.50.

When the lessee, as in 1903, swept the hauling grounds of every bachelor appearing there, necessarily many small seals were killed whose skins would bring much less than those of the prime 3-year-olds. This, of course, was waste. Although deprived of some of these small seals in 1904 by the operation of the regulations, the lessee received back in 1905 such a number of prime 3-year-olds that the loss of one year was more than equaled by the gain of the next, with the added advantage of having to kill fewer animals to secure the same profit.

When such a reserve of young bachelors is created, thereby insuring in a degree the permanency of the next year's catch, this reservation would have the effect of obscuring, to a degree at least, any decrease in the breeding herd that would cause fewer young males to appear upon the killing field.

When, for example, as in 1903, the lessee depended for its catch mainly upon the influx of 2-year-olds that theretofore had been too small to kill, its catch had close relation to the number of breeding cows that, two seasons previously, had brought forth the 2-year-olds it expected to kill. It could look nowhere else for its catch. If the births two years previously were more numerous the catch would be larger; if less numerous the catch would be smaller. Under these conditions the catch of any year would be quickly responsive to a lessening or enlarging of the number of births two years previously.

With the creation, however, of a reserve of bachelors, the lessee would be able to expect a portion of its catch from this reserve instead of from the increment from the breeding herd alone. As it would be justified in counting upon a considerable number of 3-year-old skins from the reserve, a correspondingly smaller number of 2-year-olds from the increment of young seals would be needed to complete its quota.

This indicates that the maintenance of a bachelor reserve would obscure to a degree the effect on bachelors of a reduction of the breeding herd. Without this reserve the shrinkage would be quickly felt; with it, however, the loss in new seals would be met by the bachelor reserve and the catch maintained. This is one of the reasons why the land catches on the Pribilof Islands have been maintained at a relatively stable figure since 1904, and the reduction in the number of young seals, resulting from a depletion of the breeding cows, not immediately indicated by a simultaneous reduction of the bachelor catch.

REDUCTION OF BACHELOR RESERVE.

It must not be overlooked that the bachelor reserve represented by the number of small rejections from the killing field has been almost eliminated. Beginning in 1904 with over 10,000 rejections

of these males, the reserve has fallen steadily to 4,000 rejections in 1909, including those among the marked bachelors. Its steady diminution during this period apparently indicates that to maintain the quota at a stable figure this reserve had to be drawn upon more heavily every succeeding year; or conversely, the rejections each year became fewer in order to secure the quota. It certainly is true that a steady but gradual reduction occurred in the number of bachelors rejected, and had such reduction not been made the quota would have suffered.

The reduction of this reserve will make it a matter of difficulty to secure a quota in 1910 approaching in size that of 1909. With fewer of the older animals to draw upon, dependence will be had mainly upon the young or 2-year-olds. With the chance that there will be fewer of these than in 1909, it would appear problematical whether enough can be found to equal or approach the catch of 1909.

RATIO OF BACHELORS TO WHOLE HERD.

In 1897 the investigation made by the commission of which Dr. David Starr Jordan was chief disclosed a ratio of bachelors to the whole herd of 1 to 20. That ratio was used by him in his criticisms of the accuracy of H. W. Elliott's censuses based on acreage measurements in 1874 and 1890. Subsequently, as stated in Mr. E. W. Sims's report [1] on the seal islands, in 1906, the relation of bachelors to the whole herd in 1904 and 1905, according to the censuses made by the agent in charge of seal fisheries for those years, was found to be, respectively, 1 to 16 and 1 to 14.

In 1909, by such methods of computation as are available, the whole herd of seals numbers approximately 133,000, while the catch of bachelors was 14,331. Added to the latter, to form an idea of the total bachelor yield of the herd, should be 2,000 bachelors marked and released, making a total possible catch of bachelors for 1909 of 16,331. When we contrast this yield of bachelors for 1909 with the number of the whole herd in that year, we have a relation of bachelors to the whole herd of 1 to 9. The following table will show the various ratios for the years mentioned:

Ratio of bachelors in certain years.

Year.	Bachelors killed.	Whole herd.	Bachelors released.	Ratio of catch to whole herd.
1897	20,766	402,850	.....	1 to 20.
1904	13,128	243,103	2,054	1 to 16.
1905	14,368	223,009	2,174	1 to 14.
1909	14,331	133,000	2,000	1 to 9.

This would show that the ratio which the catch of bachelors bears to the whole herd has changed from 1 to 20 in 1897 to 1 to 9 in 1909.

The percentage of bachelors dismissed from the killing field in 1897 was 41 per cent; in 1904, 44 per cent; in 1905, 40 per cent; and in 1909, 32 per cent. This shows that killing in 1909 was 9 per cent

[1] Report on the Alaskan Fur-Seal Fisheries, by Edwin W. Sims, Department of Commerce and Labor, Aug. 31, 1906.

closer than in 1897, and would account partially for the difference in the ratio, but not altogether, in my mind. Had killing in 1909 been no closer than in 1897 (59 per cent), the whole number killed would have been 10,603, which, added to the number marked and released, would have made a ratio of 1 to 11 in 1909.

This demonstrates that there was in 1909 a larger proportion of bachelors present to the whole herd than was shown to be present in 1897. In fact, the proportion seems to have increased gradually since 1897. Why this is so is difficult to explain. With a gradually diminishing herd, the number of bachelors proportionately has increased so that the annual catches of skins do not show the same rate of diminution as the herd in general.

It may be possible that the death rate among young pups has been lessened. It has been estimated heretofore that 50 per cent of pups die in their first migration, or rather that only 50 per cent reappear as yearlings the year after their birth. This was supposed to be due to their inability as pups to provide food for themselves and to escape from their natural enemies. It was due also to a heavy death rate among these pups on shore from disease. It is altogether probable that the death rate from disease on shore that affected pups in 1897 has since been reduced greatly through the abandonment by seals of areas that were supposed to be infected. This would allow a greater number of pups to return as yearlings than heretofore and would increase the number of bachelors in proportion to the whole herd. It would also insure the return of a greater number of yearling females, and would assist in maintaining the breeding herd despite pelagic killing of cows. It is possible also that the allowance of a 50 per cent mortality in pups was too high even in 1897, but I am inclined to believe rather that the death rate has changed since then and that more pups survive now than formerly.

The proportion which the pelagic catch bears to the whole herd has changed also. In 1897 the pelagic catch, 24,321, bore the same relation to the whole herd, 402,850, as 1 to 16. In 1908 it was as 1 to 8 (18,151 : 146,636). From this it would seem that the pelagic sealers are killing twice as many seals in proportion as they did 11 years ago. This is another singular fact in connection with the subject, showing that conditions at the present time differ entirely from previous years.

It may be that by the methods of estimation used, the number in the whole herd in recent years has been placed too low, or rather, that there are more seals in the herd than are given in the estimates or censuses. It is either in this possibility or the one already mentioned—that the mortality among pups is less than hitherto—that the cause of this change of relation of bachelor catch to the whole herd must be sought.

NUMERICAL STATUS OF THE SEAL HERD.

COUNTS OF HAREMS AND BULLS.

The usual counts of harems were made on the two islands during the period of July 13–16. These counts were made by the agents and a special representative of the Bureau of Fisheries, Mr. G. A. Clark, and were made carefully. The count for St. Paul Island follows:

Count of harems on St. Paul Island, 1909.

Date.	Rookery.	Harems.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Water bulls.	Bulls on hauling grounds.
1909.						
July 12	Lagoon	12	3	1	.....	.....
12	Northeast Point	229	33	[1] 42	.....	.....
12	Little Polavina	19	2	1	.....	.....
12	Polavina Cliffs	23	.....	1	.....	.....
12	Polavina	42	3	15	.....	.....
15	Gorbatch Cliffs	2	1	.....	.....	.....
15	Gorbatch	118	20	6	.....	20
15	Ardiguen	11	2	.....	.....	.....
15	Reef	184	13	22	.....	32
15	Tolstoi Cliffs	25	4	1	.....	.....
15	Tolstoi	87	14	5	.....	7
15	Ketovi	51	9	3	6	.....
15	Amphitheater	7	3	.....	.....	.....
15	Lukanin	41	3	1	4	.....
16	Zapadni Reef	11	1	1	.....	.....
16	Little Zapadni	62	9	4	.....	9
16	Zapadni	147	20	13	3	15
16	Sea Lion Rock	61	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total	1,132	140	116	13	83

[1] Includes water bulls.

Contrasting the total number of harems and bulls found on St. Paul Island in 1909 with the number found in 1908, exclusive of Sea Lion Rock, the following changes are to be noted:

Comparison of harems, St. Paul Island, 1908 and 1909.

Year.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Water bulls.	Hauling-ground bulls.
1909	1,071	140	116	13	83
1908	1,062	90	45	68	.....
Difference	+9	+50	+71	−55	.....

On St. Paul Island, therefore, while there occurred an increase of only 9 harems between 1908 and 1909, the total number of adult bulls present on the rookeries (harem masters, idle, and quitters) was increased by 130 individuals.

On St. George Island, in 1909, harems were counted on July 14–16 by the agents, and later these counts were verified by one of the agents and Mr. G. A. Clark. A detailed list of the bulls found on St. George Island, as disclosed by the counts mentioned, follows:

Count of harems on St. George Island, 1909.

Date.	Rookery.	Harems.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Hauling-ground bulls.
1909.					
July 14	Little East	5	.....	.....	.....
14	East Reef	25	.....	6	.....
14	East Cliffs	42	.....	5	.....
14	Staraya Artel	42	10	7	.....
16	Zapadni	44	9	.....	15
15	North	109	13	5	.....
	Total	267	32	23	15

A comparison between the totals of 1908 and 1909 shows the following changes as having occurred on St. George:

Comparison of harems, St. George Island, 1908 and 1909.

Year.	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Hauling-ground bulls.
1909	267	32	23	15
1908	241	34	27	(1)
Difference	+26	−2	−4	.....

[1] No data.

It may be noted from the above table that an increase of 26 harems occurred on St. George Island, or 10 per cent. The idle bulls and quitters show a slight decrease.

For the two islands, therefore, the counts made in 1909 show a net increase of 35 harems, 48 idle bulls, and 67 quitters, or a total of 150 full-grown bulls.

It may be noted that the water bulls on St. Paul Island decreased 55 between 1908 and 1909. These are the immature 5 and 6 year olds hanging about the water fronts of rookeries. They are not breeding bulls because they are not stationed in positions where they may serve cows, although in the fall they will haul up on the rookeries and annoy the cows after the adult breeding bulls have relaxed their vigilant harem control.

The decrease in this class of animals may have been caused by the possible fact that, at the particular time these counts were made, weather conditions or some other cause may have operated to bring fewer of these animals on shore than normally.

It is more probable, however, that this decrease has its cause further back than the present summer and is due to more tangible reasons. It can be sought in the large number of young seals released from the killing fields in 1904 and following years.

In that year (1904), according to the statistics of rejections, 8,019 small seals were released uninjured from the drives brought to the killing fields, in addition to 2,162 young seals marked and released for breeding purposes. This made a grand total of 10,181 young seals released in this one year (1904). In 1905, 10,288 rejections of the same character were made.

Take, for example, the 2-year-olds of 1904, of which there were approximately 8,000 rejections. These seals would be 3-year-olds in 1905, 4-year-olds in 1906, 5-year-olds in 1907, and 6-year-olds in 1908. The 2-year-olds of 1905 would be 5-year-olds in 1908, one year behind those of 1904.

Theoretically, therefore, in 1907 and 1908 we would have a large number of young males which would be either 5 or 6 year olds. At this age they would be true water bulls—not old enough to fight their way upon the rookeries to serve cows, but old enough to be obsessed by the breeding instinct and to loiter about the water fronts of rookeries flirting with cows coming and going to feed. For this reason, in 1907 and 1908 we should have had more of this class of young males than hitherto.

A reference to the annual reports of 1907 and 1908 will show that this increase occurred. In 1907, 100 water bulls were noted on the rookery fronts of St. Paul Island, where, before, the number was so small as to fail to suggest the advisability of enumeration. In 1908 only 68 water bulls were noted, and from this it is to be inferred that some of the water bulls of 1907 graduated into the idle bull or 7-year-old class of 1908. This is further borne out by the increase of 29 idle bulls in 1908. In 1909 these young bulls should have progressed into active harem masters and increased the number of harems. This is also borne out by the fact that in 1909 on St. Paul Island an increase of nine occurred in the number of harems, the first increase in the number of harems that has occurred on St. Paul for years.

But why should the supply of 5 and 6 year old males be less in 1908 than in 1909? Because the practice of releasing 10,000 annually from the killing fields was continued only through the years 1904 and 1905. In 1906 only about 7,000 were released, and in 1907 only about 4,000. This lessening of the number of rejections in previous years must find its echo in the lessening number of young bulls apparent several years thereafter.

PURPOSE OF BREEDING RESERVATION.

Since 1904 an annual reservation has been made of 1,000 3-year-old males, together with 1,000 2-year-old males designed to insure a supply of 3-year-olds the season following. The purpose of this reservation is to supply young males in sufficient numbers to meet the heavy death rate which has been demonstrated by experience to occur among adult rookery bulls. The heavy mortality among this class of fur seals has been apparent in the steady decrease in the number of bulls present on rookeries during observations extending over 10 years. To check this decrease, by providing a sufficient increment of young bulls, was the object of the plan of reserving young male seals by marking them in such manner as to prevent their being killed by clubbers on the sealing fields.

During the six years from 1904 to 1909, both inclusive, 12,000 young males have been so reserved. Of these, 6,000 were 2-year-olds and 6,000 3-year-olds at the time of reservation. As those seals reserved in 1904 and 1905 now would be coming upon the rookeries as breeders, it is both interesting and desirable that we should form an idea of the number of these young bulls we should expect to appear upon the rookeries.

Any attempt to compute the number of reserved 2-year-olds which might survive as breeders would be futile, the mark put upon them not being permanent and protecting them only for the first year. These 2-year-olds were reserved solely for the purpose of insuring a supply of 3-year-olds the next year and to prevent too close killing. It was understood at the time the plan was inaugurated that the 2-year-olds would be liable to be killed the following year. Their exemption from slaughter as 2-year-olds, however, would insure their presence the next year as 3-year-olds, and these latter were depended upon to form the actual breeding reserve. For this reason, therefore, in attempting to compute the probable increase, only the reservation of 3-year-olds should be considered and not that of the 2-year-olds, the reservation of which acts merely as a "feeder" to that of the 3-year-olds.

The 3-year-olds, on the other hand, become 4-year-olds the next year, the killing of which is prohibited by regulation. Thereafter they are too large to be killed by the clubbers. Few of them, in fact, appear later upon the field, but instead frequent the rookery fronts worrying the cows. This class of young males, therefore, we may safely attempt to follow through succeeding years and to estimate what number might be expected to appear from year to year thereafter.

INCREASE OF BULLS THROUGH RESERVATIONS.

During the six years mentioned 6,000 3-year-olds were reserved for breeding, 1,000 each year. To follow their progress through the years following, allowance should be made for a 10 per cent mortality from natural causes. What mortality they suffer from pelagic sealing, although severe, need not be dealt with here, as our object merely is to decide how many of these bachelors under normal conditions might be expected to mature as bulls.

A table constructed on this basis follows:

Increment of bulls from breeding reservations.

Age.	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
3-year-olds	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
4-year-olds	.....	900	900	900	900	900
5-year-olds	.....	.....	810	810	810	810
6-year-olds	.....	.....	.....	729	729	729
7-year-olds	.....	.....	.....	.....	647	647
Adult bulls	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	583

From this table we can see that, theoretically, we should have in 1909, from the reservations of 3-year-olds made in 1904 and 1905, an increment of 583 adult, or 8-year-old bulls, and 647 7-year-olds, or quitters. This does not mean, of course, that the number of bulls present in 1908 would be increased by the number of new bulls noted above. A number of the 1908 bulls would have died by the following year. It means that this number of young bulls would be available to offset the mortality among adult bulls occurring during the interval between the seasons of 1908 and 1909. Any increase in bulls noted in the latter year would represent the excess of incoming young bulls over the loss by death of old bulls.

It will now be interesting to note to what degree this theoretical computation agrees with the facts as demonstrated by the actual counts made during the last season. The table shows that 583 new full-grown bulls should be present in 1909. The count of harems made in 1909 shows that the number of harems in 1908 has been maintained and that we have in 1909 an increase of 35 harems on the two islands, and of 48 full-grown adult bulls that were without cows, a net increase in adult bulls of 83, in addition to an increase of 67 in the 7-year-old quitter class.

This actual increase in the number of bulls shows that the theoretical computation is correct in so far as to indicate a comfortable increase in bulls in 1909. The number of these new bulls that did actually take station on the rookeries is undeterminable, and to that extent we can not verify the table. We do know that a number of young bulls had harems in 1909 for the first time, and that these

incoming young bulls were sufficient not only to fill the gaps created by the death of old bulls but to increase the actual number apparent on the rookeries by 83 harem masters and idle. When we consider further the increase of 67 quitters, or 7-year-olds, a total increase of 150 breeding males, we may feel that we have received, in a modified degree at least, the benefit of the reservations which the theoretical computation indicates should have been felt.

Of course, not a few individuals of the reservations of 1904 and 1905 were killed by pelagic sealers. Those of 1904 now living had to elude the efforts to capture them in the sea made during a period of six years. The cumulative effect of six years' sea hunting upon a given class of animals, such as these young males released in 1904, must be severe enough to deplete the original number materially. No one will claim that of the original 1,000 3-year-olds released in 1904 all came through to adult estate with a loss attributable only to natural mortality. Quite a large percentage died from pelagic sealing, but enough escaped the vicissitudes of seal life not only to fill all the places made vacant by the deaths of old bulls, but to reenforce that class to the point of actual expansion.

Notwithstanding the assured success of this experiment of reserving young males, it may be claimed that the result should have been more pronounced, or, in other words, that more bulls should have appeared than actually did. Theoretically more should have appeared, but our theories are based upon the knowledge of only a few facts connected with seal life after the seals leave the land. What the actual mortality is among these animals from their natural enemies and pelagic sealing can not be ascertained, but undoubtedly it is large. From the experiment we have learned simply that a reservation of 2,000 bachelors will not deliver the entire number on the rookeries as bulls five years hence, and that, if we want more bulls than actually appeared, we must have a larger reservation.

SIZE OF RESERVATION TO EFFECT INCREASE IN BULLS.

In 1904 there were approximately 2,300 adult bulls on the rookeries, and in that year the first reservation of 1,000 3-year-olds was made. No account is taken of the 1,000 2-year-olds made at the same time, for the reason already given that these latter are always liable to be killed the succeeding year on land and were reserved for the purpose merely of insuring a supply of 3-year-olds for the next year's reservation.

These 1,000 3-year-olds represented nearly 50 per cent of the number of active breeding bulls present in 1904. When the years necessary for their full growth had passed, it is found that the increment of the survivors of this 50 per cent reservation was sufficient only to form a slight excess over the number of bulls present the preceding year. In other words, it is found that a reservation equal to 50 per cent of the adult bulls present was hardly more than enough to meet the drains from the usual mortality among rookery bulls.

From these facts, hardly sufficient though they be, we might deduce the tentative principle to be observed in future, should further effort be made by reservation of 3-year-olds to meet and check a steady

decrease in rookery bulls, namely, that such reservation must equal at least 50 per cent of the adult bulls in existence at the time the reservation is first made.

CHANGE IN HAREMS BY ROOKERIES.

We have seen from the foregoing that an increase of 9 harems occurred on St. Paul Island and of 26 on St. George Island. This increase represents a percentage of only eight-tenths of 1 per cent on St. Paul and of over 10 per cent on St. George. The counts disclose an increase upon all the rookeries on St. George excepting one, and that one, Little East, is the same as in 1908, while on St. Paul only 1 of the 4 large rookeries (Gorbatch) shows any increase whatever. With this single exception, such increase on St. Paul as did occur took place on the smaller rookeries.

A count of the bulls on all rookeries in 1908 and 1909, with a statement of the changes occurring during the interval, follows:

Count of bulls on all rookeries, 1908 and 1909.

Rookeries.	Harem.		Increase (+) or decrease (−).
	1908	1909	
St. Paul:			
Ardiguen	8	11	+ 3
Reef	200	184	−16
Ketovi	42	51	+ 9
Amphitheater	6	7	+ 1
Lukanin	44	41	− 3
Tolstoi	88	87	− 1
Tolstoi Cliffs	20	25	+ 5
Lagoon	13	12	− 1
Northeast Point	237	229	− 8
Little Polavina	16	19	+ 3
Polavina Cliffs	24	23	− 1
Polavina	36	42	+ 6
Zapadni	148	147	− 1
Little Zapadni	64	62	− 2
Zapadni Reef	10	11	+ 1
Gorbatch Cliffs	3	2	− 1
Gorbatch	103	118	+15
St. George:			
Little East	5	5	.....
East Reef	20	25	+ 5
East Cliffs	41	42	+ 1
Staraya Artel	41	42	+ 1
Zapadni	40	44	+ 4
North	94	109	+15

This fact, that the rookeries on St. George Island show increase in bulls in a marked degree, is strongly corroborative of the tentative conclusion advanced by me in 1908, that the continued disturbance of seals in the water about St. Paul Island by the pelagic sealers has had the effect of driving off seals to the other island, where they suffer but little annoyance from the sealers. In 1908 the change in the habits of the bachelors in hauling on the Reef, where they were least disturbed, in preference to Northeast Point, where two-thirds of the fleet gathered, was plainly noticeable. This year the fleet gathered mainly off Southwest Point, and as a result no large drives were made from the Reef, as was the case in the two years preceding, while as many bachelors were found at Northeast Point as at any other rookery. This situation in 1909 is more a return to normal than a change,

but indicates that seals can be influenced in hauling by conditions extraneous to their normal environment.

The cause of the fact that the increase in bulls on St. Paul occurred only on smaller rookeries excepting one, might lie in the fact that on the smaller rookeries the young bulls had a better opportunity of lodgment close to the cows than on the larger ones, where the average harem was smaller.

COUNTS OF PUPS AND AVERAGE HAREM.

Counts of pups were made last summer on several rookeries with the object of determining whether or not the breeding females have diminished, as well as the size of the average harem, by means of which estimates of the whole number of breeding cows on the two islands might be made.

St. Paul Island.—Counts of pups were made upon certain rookeries on St. Paul in 1909 and are detailed in the following table:

Counts of pups on rookeries of St. Paul Island, 1909.

Date.	Rookeries.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Total.
1909.				
Aug. 2	Ketovi	1,669	60	1,729
2	Amphitheater	246	4	250
4	Lagoon	693	22	715
4	Tolstoi Cliffs	1,397	55	1,452
4	Zapadni Reef	309	10	319
	Total	4,314	151	4,465

It was originally my purpose to count the pups on only Ketovi and Amphitheater, omitting all other rookeries, to avoid driving into the water any greater number of breeding cows than necessary. Counts of other rookeries were made, however, at the request of Mr. G. A. Clark, special representative of the Bureau of Fisheries, for comparison of their present condition with their status in 1897, when the pups thereon were counted by the fur-seal commission.

The rookeries on which pups were counted on St. Paul in 1909 contained 106 harems at the height of the breeding season. As 4,465 live and dead pups were found on the same area, and as each pup represents a breeding cow, each harem on this space would have on an average 42.1 cows.

This represents, as has been stated, an average harem based on the entire count of pups made. The average harems on the individual rookeries vary greatly. The average harem on Zapadni Reef is 29, while that on Lagoon is 59.5. Tolstoi Cliffs, on which 1,452 pups were found, had an average harem of 58.

For convenience, the average harem on each rookery on which pups were counted is given below:

Average harems on rookeries on St. Paul Island.

Rookeries.	Live and dead pups.	Harems.	Average harem.
Ketovi and Amphitheater	1,979	58	34.1
Lagoon	715	12	59.5
Tolstoi Cliffs	1,452	25	58.0
Zapadni Reef	319	11	29.0
Total	4,465	106	42.1

On St. Paul in 1908 the pups on Ketovi and Amphitheater only were counted. For this reason, comparison between the counts in 1908 and 1909 can be made only for these rookeries. Such comparison shows:

Comparison of counts of pups, St. Paul, 1908 and 1909.

Year.	Rookeries.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Total.
1908	Ketovi and Amphitheater	1,877	83	1,960
1909	do	1,915	64	1,979
	Increase			19

The difference between the number of pups embraced in these two counts is 19, representing an increase in 1909. This indicates that practically no change has occurred in the numbers of cows on this rookery between the years 1908 and 1909.

St. George Island.—A count of pups was made in 1909 on North rookery on St. George as has been done for several years.

Counts of pups on St. George Island, 1908 and 1909.

Year.	Rookeries.	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Total.
1909	North	3,679	105	3,784
1908	do	3,969	154	4,123
	Decrease			339

The count for 1909 shows that a decrease has occurred in the number of pups on that rookery since 1908 amounting to 339, or 8 per cent.

Using the same methods as were employed in determining the average harem on St. Paul Island, it is found that the average harem on North rookery, St. George Island, in 1909 was 34.7 (109 harems, 3,784 cows).

Had the pups on other rookeries on St. George Island been counted, a different average harem would have been obtained. While North and Staraya Artel rookeries have remained practically stable in numbers for several years, the area covered by the breeding seals on Zapadni, St. George Island, is less this year than formerly, in addition to

which only 1,100 cows were counted there at the height of the season of 1909, whereas over 1,500 were counted there on the same date in 1906. This shows that a decrease in breeding cows occurred there during that period. So also those counts of cows on East rookery have shown a steady diminution. If, therefore, the estimate of the average harem on St. George had been based upon counts of North and Zapadni or North, Zapadni, and East, it is certain that a different result would have been obtained.

For the last three years, however, it has been the practice to count only Ketovi rookery on St. Paul and North rookery on St. George to obtain an average harem to be used for purposes of estimation. Should we discard this method in 1909 there would be no opportunity to make a comparison between this and preceding years. For comparison, therefore, the pup count of Ketovi on St. Paul and of North on St. George will be used to determine the average harems of both islands to compute the number of breeding cows. The average harems on those rookeries, as already stated, are Ketovi, 34.1; North, 34.7.

It can thus be seen that the average harems on these two rookeries which have been accepted heretofore as typical of all differ but slightly in the size.

NUMBER OF BREEDING COWS.

It was found that there were 1,071 harems on St. Paul and 267 on St. George. Applying the average harems above mentioned to the whole number of harems on the two islands, we have the following as an estimated census of breeding cows:

Estimated number of breeding cows, 1909.

Island.	Average harem.	Total harems.	Whole number of breeding cows.
St. Paul	34.1	1,071	36,521
St. George	34.7	267	9,265
Total		1,338	45,786

Contrast with 1908.—Using the rookery of Ketovi as typical of conditions on the whole of St. Paul Island, we may contrast the estimate of cows given above with that made by the same method in 1908.

In that year Ketovi contained 48 harems and 1,960 pups, affording an average harem of 40.8. As 1,062 harems were found on the entire island, the application of the average harem of 40.8 would produce a total of 43,329 breeding cows. On St. George, the typical rookery, North, had 94 harems and 4,123 pups, giving an average harem of 43.8. As there were 241 harems on the entire island, an estimate of the entire number of breeding cows on that island based upon the average harem obtained as above, would give 10,555. For the two islands, therefore, in 1908, by the methods of estimation outlined above, there was in 1908 a total of 53,884 breeding cows.

Since 45,786 cows were estimated to be present in 1909 and 53,884 in 1908, it would appear that a decrease of 8,098 cows, or 15 per cent, has occurred during the year.

DIFFERENT BASES OF ESTIMATION.

This estimate of breeding cows, as has been stated, is based upon the size of an average harem obtained by counting the pups on only one rookery on each island. It may be granted that had another rookery on either island been selected as typical an entirely different result would have been obtained. This may be seen readily by a scrutiny of the average harems on the various rookeries on St. Paul on which pups were counted in 1909. As it is, the Ketovi rookery average harem of 34.1 represents a fair mean between the highest and the lowest averages obtained by counting other rookeries, and might fairly be taken as typical of the entire island when considering the size of the average harem. The fact that the average harem may be made to vary greatly by the selection of other rookeries is cited, however, to show that the estimate made is open to criticism on the ground of uncertainty as to its accuracy. If, instead of constructing an estimate based upon an average harem and contrasting that estimate with one made in the same manner the previous year, we were to take the percentage of decrease shown by an actual count of pups on certain rookeries, it is believed that a more accurate idea would be obtained as to the changes occurring in the breeding cows.

In observing the decrease in seal life it has appeared that certain rookeries, or rather portions of rookeries, either show a smaller rate of decrease than others, or in some instances do not show any decrease at all, while others do. We may take it from this that certain localities are focal points in the breeding areas, attracting the breeding seals more than others. Around these central points the animals gather instinctively, while those that can not obtain lodgment thereon spread to one side or the other. So, also, when the rookery space occupied retracts by depletion of the herd the spaces on either side of these focal points are first deserted and the herd converges upon the places which seem most desirable as breeding grounds.

Owing to the decrease in the herd during the last few years, opportunity has been offered to ascertain the points more desired by breeding seals. On these places the diminution has been less apparent than at others, or the diminution between particular years has amounted to nothing at all. We have seen that Ketovi rookery for several years has shown scarcely any loss, while portions of other rookeries have been virtually eliminated or reduced to skeletons of their former aspect. Lukanin rookery, for instance, immediately adjacent to Ketovi, has had four-fifths of its breeding area denuded, and such breeding seals as are left gather only on the hill at the southern extremity. Portions of Gorbatch rookery are deserted, leaving such seals as are there at the central portion, approximately, and the extreme west end. Polavina rookeries have retracted until practically all seals are at Polavina Point. Northeast Point rookery has retracted from the ends toward the center. Zapadni rookery has receded toward its central massed areas, leaving the bowlder beach line of Zapadni Reef almost bare of seal life. Ketovi rookery

itself has abandoned that portion which abuts Black Bluffs, but after rounding Ketovi Point the breeding seals there seemed to have maintained their numbers with little or no decrease.

Likewise, on St. George Island, North rookery seems to be a favored spot that attracts breeding seals to the exclusion of other rookeries. It has shown little decrease, or rather a more gradual decrease, than East rookery and its outlying areas and Zapadni rookery, which seem to have suffered such loss in breeding seals has occurred on St. George in recent years.

It can be seen, then, that the loss among breeding seals is greater in some areas than others, and that the least decrease has occurred on Ketovi and North rookeries, the ones chosen as typical. Since this is the case it would seem proper that the loss in seal life should be sought where it really occurs and not upon those rookeries that are shown to have remained stable in numbers or on which the rate of decrease is slower than upon others. Consequently, judgment as to the condition of the rookeries in general should be based not upon conditions on one rookery alone and upon that rookery in particular which shows least change. The data upon which it is to be formed should be gathered from other localities as well upon which changes have occurred. Only in this way, in my belief, can a correct idea be formed as to changes in the number of seals present. It would, of course, involve extended counting and this means unwonted disturbance of the breeding cows. For this reason it should not be done every year. But at intervals of five years, for example, an extended count of pups should be made on each island and from the data thus obtained should be made an estimate of the number of breeding cows in the herd

Disturbance of the rookeries in itself means no harm, provided it is not constant. No harm to the cows follows directly from the act of their being disturbed and driven off their breeding ground. Harm does come, however, when such driving occurs in connection with the presence of over 100 small boats filled with men armed with shotguns, waiting as close to shore as they may come, ready to shoot the seals that are driven off the rookeries. While such a menace is present; ordinary prudence dictates that the seals on shore should not be disturbed unless it is desired to augment the pelagic catch from the breeding cows that represent the very life of the herd.

In the interval between these suggested five-year counts no serious effort need be made to count the seals. Inspection of the area occupied would disclose in a general way whether any radical change in the numbers had occurred, and this could be done without disturbance. The Government could well afford to sacrifice some of its minute data regarding seal life to the greater consideration of saving the lives of many breeding cows each year by refraining from driving them within reach of the pelagic fleet.

CONCLUSION AS REGARDS BREEDING COWS.

It may be accepted as a fact that a decrease in breeding cows has occurred since 1908. The retraction of the breeding seals from the places formerly occupied and the actual count of pups on North rookery demonstrate this. The fact that Ketovi rookery on St. Paul does not show a decrease from 1908 must indicate either that the

numbers on this particular rookery have been maintained through accessions of cows from other less attractive rookeries, or that pelagic sealing had less effect upon the cows frequenting this rookery than upon others.

From such data as we have on hand at present, which have already been detailed, it will be safe to conclude that the decrease in breeding cows varies between 10 and 15 per cent. It may be safe, furthermore, to estimate that the whole number of breeding cows now embraced in the herd is in the neighborhood of 45,000, varying several thousand on one side or the other because of the necessary amount of conjecture used in making the estimate.

NONRETURN OF COWS AFTER DISTURBANCE.

Upon the occasion of the counting of pups on Lagoon rookery last summer count was made of the cows on that rookery before they were disturbed and driven off by the approach of the pup counters. On that date (August 4) 320 cows were present. Daily, for a week thereafter, this rookery was revisited and the cows recounted, the object being to ascertain whether after being driven off into the water the cows returned to the rookery in anything like the number present before the disturbance.

The series of counts made justifies the conclusion that after having been so disturbed the cows do not return in the same numbers as before the clearing off of the rookery. A list of the counts of cows follows:

August 4	320
August 5	204
August 6	190
August 7	164
August 8	193
August 9	163
August 10	148
August 11	152

This shows that on the day after this rookery was first disturbed 116 cows had failed to return and in all probability had gone to sea. At no time thereafter were there as many cows found on the rookery as when they were first driven off. We must conclude from this that driving off of cows from a rookery increases the number at sea which may be killed by pelagic sealers and that, under present conditions, disturbance of the rookeries in the manner indicated has the effect virtually of increasing the pelagic catch.

CENSUS OF SEAL HERD.

In making a census of seals in the whole herd only the adult stationed bulls are actually counted, together with a small number of pups. By means of the latter an average harem is established, to be used in estimating the number of pups and breeding cows. This, however, has already been explained. All other seals in the herd can be enumerated only by estimation based upon such facts concerning their numbers as we may be able to gather.

ESTIMATE OF HALF BULLS.

Records kept of the dismissal of large seals from the killing grounds show that 1,770 large young males were turned away on both islands. Observations made heretofore by me, based upon the percentage of return of 3-year-old males, suggest strongly that not more than 50 per cent of the half bulls appeared upon the hauling grounds, the other half hanging about the rookeries worrying the cows. This indicates that the number of half bulls appearing in the drives should be doubled in endeavoring to arrive at the whole number. If we double those seen in the drives in 1909 we would have 3,550 as an estimate of the young males in the herd too young to hold positions on the breeding rookeries, but too old to be killed for skins.

ESTIMATE OF YOUNG SEALS.

In 1907 the census of seals gave the number of new-born pups as 50,825. Of these one half were males and the other half females. These pups of 1907 would be 2-year-olds in 1909.

By the usual process of estimation the 25,000 male pups in 1907 would return to the islands in 1909 to the number of 10,165. Approximately 8,000 of these were killed by the lessee in 1909, leaving 2,165 surviving at the close of the season.

The female 2-year-olds by this process would number 10,165 in 1909.

The yearlings in 1909 would number approximately 12,000, divided equally between the sexes.

Of the 3-year-old bachelors, 1,000 were reserved for breeding in 1909. In addition to these some few escaped driving. A fair estimate of the number of this class would be 1,200.

STATISTICS OF SEAL LIFE IN 1909.

From the foregoing we may construct the following census of seal life at the close of the sealing season of 1909:

Bulls, active with harems	1,132
Bulls, idle and quitters	256
Half bulls	3,550
3-year-old bachelors	1,200
2-year-old bachelors	2,165
Yearling bachelors	12,000
Male pups	22,882
Breeding cows	45,765
2-year-old cows	10,165
Yearling cows	12,000
Female pups	22,882
Total	133,997

This total is an approximation, based upon such limited knowledge of the numbers of the seal herd as we possess. There are certain classes of seals which it is highly impracticable to count accurately, as, for instance, the entire body of the new-born pups. There are other classes impossible to count, as the yearlings, half bulls, and adult cows, some of which are always in the water. These facts all result in forcing the enumerator of the seal herd to resort to estimation in arriving at their numbers.

The result of experience has been to show that previous censuses made in the manner adopted in 1909 have been inexact in showing fewer seals than actually were in existence. This probably will be the case with the census of 1909. It is altogether probable that the estimates of the bachelors made by me in 1909 are too low, due to the allowance of a higher death rate than actually occurs among them.

DEAD PUPS.

In October, 1908, and again in 1909, counts were made of dead pups on the various rookeries on St. Paul Island. These counts were made in some instances by myself or assistant agents and in others by intelligent natives detailed by me. The count follows:

Dead pups, St. Paul Island.

	1908	1909	
		Dead.	Starving.
Lagoon	4	15	
Tolstoi Cliffs	152	104	6
Tolstoi	287	440	14
Ketovi	36	77	2
Amphitheater	17	10	
Lukanin	77	117	8
Gorbatch Cliffs	1	10	1
Gorbatch	245	319	12
Ardiguen	24	33	2
Reef	701	881	24
Zapadni Reef	4	17	
Little Zapadni	183	270	6
Zapadni	369	426	18
Polavina	45	131	7
Polavina Cliffs		52	2
Little Polavina	4	36	
Northeast Point	854	722	17
Sea Lion Rock		126	6
Total	3,003	3,786	125

In 1908, with approximately 50,000 births, 3,000 dead pups were found in October of that year on St. Paul alone. What the death rate was on St. George is impossible to determine, as foxes eat the dead pups' bodies immediately after death. Furthermore, the bodies of such pups as die early in the season have by October almost entirely disintegrated, and can not be seen when counting is done late in the fall. In 1909, with a diminished herd of cows, more dead pups were counted than in 1908. We must believe that mortality among pups was greater in 1909 than in 1908, caused, undoubtedly, by increased pelagic sealing, and that such mortality while the pups are on land is in the neighborhood of 10 per cent.

On August 12 the dead pups on Tolstoi sand flat were counted, with a view of finding uncinariated pups. All seals on the flat were driven off. We found thereon 271 dead pups. Of these, 151 of the freshly dead plainly were starved. Of the remainder, the most were so rotten that not only could no dissection be made, but it was impossible to tell in any way the cause of death. Of those freshly dead, seven autopsies were made. Three of these plainly indicated starvation, the autopsies being made merely to verify that fact. Two dead pups were found with an abundance of subcutaneous fat

and with stomachs full of milk. The flesh was anemic and pale. Areas of inflammation were found in the small intestines of each. These areas were dissected, but no worms were found there. In the appendix of one of these pups, however, and in the small intestine several inches from the appendix, a number of worms from one-half to 1 inch in length and of the thickness of a thin hair was found. These were preserved, together with the entire small intestine, for further study. Portions of the intestines of all pups dissected were preserved. One pup was found which, although emaciated in appearance, was found to have a small layer of subcutaneous fat. The feces in this case were dark but not tarry in the large intestine. Another dead pup was found with pale excrescent kidneys of very irregular form. Mr. Chichester believed the evidence in this case to point to fatty degeneration. The bowels and other organs of this animal were normal.

All specimens of intestines and worms found upon this occasion were forwarded to the Bureau of Fisheries, but as yet no microscopic examination of them has been made.

As the result of the examination of the Tolstoi sand flat, it was found that over half the dead pups plainly had died of starvation; that of the remainder, which included all the wholly rotten pups, only a few were found whose death could be ascribed to *uncinaria*. Whatever may have been the death rate from *uncinaria* in previous years, it is certain that its effect at the present time is almost nothing.

EFFECT OF PELAGIC CATCH UPON LAND CATCH.

The effect of the pelagic catch is supposed to be felt directly by the breeding herd. Pelagic catches are supposed to consist mainly of breeding females. If the pelagic catch is heavy, fewer females are supposed to appear on the islands; if light, more females will be present. If more females appear, the births will be increased and more bachelors be present two years later as 2-year-olds. As the lessee's catch, except for the years 1904–1908, has been composed mainly of 2-year-olds, it would be supposed that the effect of a heavy sea catch would be felt two years later in a decreased catch of bachelors on land.

An examination of the land and pelagic catches for a series of years, however, fails to show such a close connection between the land and sea catches as would be supposed. The following table contains the pelagic and land catches from 1900 to date:

Pelagic and land catches of seals, 1900 to 1909, inclusive.

Year.	Pelagic catch.	Land catch.	Year.	Pelagic catch.	Land catch.
1900	35,191	22,470	1905	25,320	14,368
1901	24,050	22,672	1906	21,236	14,476
1902	22,812	22,386	1907	16,036	14,964
1903	27,000	19,292	1908	18,151	14,996
1904	29,006	13,128	1909	.....	14,336

It can be seen from this table that a heavy pelagic catch (35,191) occurred in 1900, yet the land catch of 1902 was within a hundred of what it was in 1900. We find a heavy pelagic catch in 1903

(27,000), yet the land catch of 1905 seems not to have decreased to any appreciable extent when we consider the restrictions upon land killing in that year and the number of bachelors released for breeding. The pelagic catch of 1904 increased to 29,000, and we have found a decrease in the number of bachelors present in 1906, although this might have been merely a coincidence. We find in 1905 still a large pelagic catch (25,320), but we have already stated that the number of bachelors present in 1907 was greater than the preceding year. In 1907, on the other hand, we had a small pelagic catch (16,000), but, notwithstanding this, the number of bachelors in 1909 was smaller than ever before, when, according to theory, there should have been more bachelors present than formerly.

The effect of pelagic sealing is cumulative and twofold; it diminishes not only the number of 2-year-old seals appearing two years thereafter, but also the number of seals in general appearing during the year itself. Those females killed in the spring off the northwest coast of course do not reach the rookeries, thereby decreasing the number of breeding seals in that year. This means a decreased number of pups born and of 2-year-old seals appearing two years later, but the effect is felt also in the year in which the pelagic catch is made.

For this reason it is hard to attribute a decrease in bachelor or other seals occurring in any year specifically to the pelagic killing of any former year. Should the pelagic catches be greater, the herd will decrease; if they become less, the herd will remain stationary or will increase, but it is not possible, in the light of present knowledge, to trace a reduction in bachelors exactly to the pelagic catch of any one year, although the effect must be felt sooner or later.

FOXES.

ST. GEORGE ISLAND.[1]

In point of numbers the fox catch this year was extremely unsatisfactory, being smaller than at any time since 1904–5. There can be little doubt, however, that this falling off was due not to any diminution of the herd but to the peculiar conditions of the weather. There was practically no snow on the ground up to February 1, while during the latter part of November, the whole of December, and the greater part of January, the entire trapping season, in short, rain fell constantly, the beaches were open, and vast congregations of sea quail, sometimes acres in extent, covered the sea in close proximity to the land. Numbers of these birds seemed to be suffering from some distemper, which rendered them helpless, and they were cast ashore, attracting the foxes to the beach instead of to the traps for food. It was only by constant trapping that the catch was saved from utter failure.

Trapping was begun November 19, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and by 8 o'clock that night 234 foxes had been captured in the three traps, the largest catch handled in one night since the present method of trapping was established. Only one more large catch, of 74, was secured, however, the remainder of the total being secured in small lots. Early in February the foxes began to change color and lose

[1] The report on the foxes of St. George Island was prepared by Mr. H. D. Chichester, assistant agent in charge of that island during the season of 1908–9.

their fur in spots, and on February 12 so marked had these changes become that trapping was discontinued.

During the sealing season of 1908 all the carcasses of seals killed and not consumed by the natives were salted down for fox food, the company providing the necessary salt for the purpose. The company also furnished, as required by contract, 12 tons of salted fish. In addition to this there was a large amount of salt fish on hand from previous years. This, however, was not used, nor indeed was all that was supplied this season.

The feeding of salt cod was begun October 5 and continued until November 17, when seal meat was added. During the month of October but little of the food put out was eaten. The foxes for some unknown reason do not take kindly to salted cod. This was remedied somewhat, however, by soaking a number of seal carcasses in each batch of cod, which treatment seemed to give a piquancy to the cod and render it more acceptable to the foxes. From December 28 to January 21, however, but a small fraction of the seal meat fed was eaten, and there were but very few days during the entire winter that the quantity of food put out was not in excess of that consumed.

The supply of seal meat at the village became exhausted April 9, 1909, but the feeding of cod continued daily until May 1, at which time the birds arrived in such numbers as to render further feeding unnecessary. The total amount of food known to have been consumed by the foxes is as follows:

	Pounds.
Salt cod	4,146
1,030 salt seal carcasses	25,750
Offal of 400 seals	4,500
Total	34,396

The total catch for the season was 779 blue and 10 white foxes. From these were selected for breeding purposes 198 blue males and 223 blue females, leaving 230 blue males, 137 blue females, 4 white males, and 6 white females to be killed. The foxes selected for breeding were, without exception, the finest lot that have thus far come under my notice. No male weighing less than 10 pounds was saved, and no female of less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Most of the males weighed 11 pounds or over, and by far the larger number of females tipped the scales at 8 pounds or over. No lame, blind, old, or decidedly off-color foxes were preserved. In fact, so rigid was this selection that the end of the season found the number saved for breeders considerably less than usual. This, however, seems to be of small moment, as the number of foxes that did not pass through the traps at all is this year unusually large. A dozen foxes have been counted about the village, half of which were not branded, and this seems to be about the ratio of branded to unbranded met with at various points about the island.

But two dead foxes were found during the entire year. Autopsy failed to show cause of death. About a dozen mangy foxes were observed. All of those that were caught were destroyed, and the rest unquestionably perished during the severe weather that prevailed in March and April. A fox denuded of its fur would have little chance to survive the terrible blizzards and cold of these months.

Of the 367 blue and 10 white skins taken this year the company accepted 357 blue and 10 white. Eight blue were rejected, and 2 mangy skins that were absolutely worthless were destroyed. In payment for the skins accepted ($5 for each blue and $1 for each white) the sum of $1,795 has been credited on the company's books in favor of the native inhabitants of the islands and is available for their support.

ST. PAUL ISLAND.

While a slight increase in the number of foxes on St. Paul was noted, there were not enough present to justify trapping, although the natives were anxious to get some skins and spend the cash for firearms. The increase in foxes on this island since the epidemic of 1903 has been very slow. The fox herd here probably never will reach its former size unless such foxes as are on the island can be trained to gather at certain localities where they may be fed. Heretofore, although attempts have been made, some more or less elaborate, it was not possible to induce foxes on St. Paul to eat food thrown out for them. This being the case, they could not be gathered into herds or bodies, without which systematic feeding or trapping could not be accomplished. Last year, however, for some unexplained reason, a number of foxes gathered about the village and readily ate salt salmon freshened in pure water and thrown out to them.

On February 19 it was noted that whereas a lone fox had been acting as scavenger about the village during the winter, on that date five were seen. Thereafter more than one fox could be seen constantly. In March, owing to the presence of drift ice and zero weather it was believed to be good policy to offer food to these foxes, and accordingly some salt salmon having been obtained, about March 25 (the exact date was not noted) some of it was freshened and thrown out. This disappeared, but rather slowly. On March 29 a second feeding was thrown out, consisting of six salmon. This was eaten. Previous to this date the quantity of food consumed each night had not been noted, but thereafter attention was paid to it. Salmon, sea-lion meat, and hog offal were supplied in varying quantities until May 17, and were each time all or partially consumed. At the latter date feeding was discontinued, as birds were in abundance and the weather mild. Foxes increased in numbers about the village after feeding was begun. As many as 15 were seen at one time on the flat where the food was distributed. This is the first time these animals could be induced to congregate about the village and accept food. Perhaps the fact that the salmon was soaked in pure water instead of in sea water, as in previous attempts, made a difference.

Further attempts will be made this winter to congregate the foxes by feeding. During the sealing season some seal carcasses were buried to be used for fox food in winter.

ADMINISTRATION OF LAWS.

PELAGIC SEALING.

The subject of pelagic sealing has been treated at such length by investigators in the past that it is needless here to reiterate statements showing its deadly effect upon the seal herd. The laws of the

United States in the matter have been published in Bureau of Fisheries Document 732.

Sealing fleet and catch.—The pelagic fleet about the seal islands in 1909 was composed of 23 Japanese and 5 Canadian schooners. Of these, 20 Japanese were boarded by our Revenue-Cutter Service on patrol and 3 additional by H. M. S. *Algerine*, assigned to the patrol by the British Government. The catch of the Japanese up to August 17, as reported to the boarding officers, was 6,610. It is believed that their total catch for the season will approximate 10,000 and be equal at least to that of 1908.

None of the five Canadian schooners which were granted licenses for sealing in 1909 were boarded by the patrol vessels after August 1, and it is believed that their operations were conducted far off the Pribilof Islands. Those that were boarded were in the neighborhood of the Semidis on June 23, when their masters stated their intention to visit the Commander Islands and later to seal in Bering Sea. As stated before, none were afterwards seen sealing by the patrol, although the *Thomas F. Bayard* put into Unalaska Harbor on August 17, and her master stated his intention to seal thereafter about 200 miles north and east of the Pribilofs.

Authentic reports of the pelagic catch of 1909 are meager. No report from Japanese officials showing the 1909 catch of vessels flying that flag has been received. The United States consul at Victoria, in a telegram of November 10 last, informed the State Department that the official figures of the Canadian catch for 1909, complete, are as follows: British Columbia, coast, 1,493; outside area, 623; Bering Sea, 1,439; Indian catch, 187; total, 3,742.

To this must be added a coast catch by Indians on the coast of the United States of 411, so far as now known.

Seizures of sealing vessels.—On July 9 the revenue cutter *Perry* seized the Japanese schooner *Tenyu Maru*, having captured one of her boats within the 3-mile limit, in which boat was the body of a fur seal recently shot. The schooner was taken to Unalaska and after a preliminary hearing before the United States commissioner at that place the master and crew, 17 men in all, were bound over to the grand jury at Valdez for trial at the October session of the United States district court. They were transported to Valdez on the cutter *Perry* and given over to the United States marshal at that place on September 4 to await the action of the grand jury. The schooner was held at Unalaska.

On September 2, at Walrus Island, about 7 miles from Northeast Point, two Japanese rowboats from the schooner *Eun Maru*, containing six Japanese seamen, one fur seal, and complete sealing outfits, were seized by Assistant Agent Judge and natives for sealing within the 3-mile limit. These six Japanese were delivered to the revenue cutter *Bear*, which took them to Unalaska. They were tried there before the United States commissioner and each sentenced to three months in jail and a fine of $200 and costs. A failure to pay the fine and costs will extend the jail sentence to more than six months. The prisoners, after sentence, were sent, on September 30, on the revenue cutter *Rush*, to Valdez, where their sentences will be served.

At the time of the capture the facts were at once reported to the captain commanding the cutter *Bear*, with a request that search be made for the schooner to which the boats belonged, and the appre-

hension of her, if found. Although both the cutters *Bear* and *Manning* afterwards made such search, nothing thereafter was seen of the schooner, which clearly was liable to seizure.

Numerous instances were reported by the native guards stationed on the rookeries of the approach of small sealing boats close to shore, during the temporary absence of the patrolling cutters. On several occasions, during thick fog, the noise of the sealers' gunfire could be heard at the village plainly and almost incessantly for several days at a period. Because of the fog it was not possible to determine how close to shore the sealers were, but it is believed that they were within the 3-mile limit. On another occasion, while island boats manned by natives were fishing off St. Paul, they were surrounded in the fog by boats of the sealing fleet, the occupants of which were engaged in shooting at seals. The natives on this occasion had some difficulty in avoiding being shot by chance buckshot, which were flying in all directions about them.

Locality of operation.—The sealing fleet, as heretofore, centered at St. Paul Island, to the virtual exclusion of St. George Island. Unlike last year, however, the main body of the fleet operated to the southwestward of the island, whereas in 1908 the main body of the fleet hung off Northeast Point, with only a smaller portion off Southwest Point. Several schooners remained at anchor for some weeks between St. Paul and St. George Islands.

While the usual practice was for small boats to leave their vessels in the morning and to cruise all day in more or less haphazard fashion, it was noted that the crews of several adopted a much more systematic course. Their method was to ascertain the location of the 3-mile limit by bearings and to distribute themselves along this line with regular intervals between their boats. Maintaining these positions as nearly as possible, they waited for the seals to pass them while going to and from the islands. They carefully avoided entering the 3-mile limit, but they were equally careful to lie as close to it as permissible, depending upon the transit of the seals through their line for victims rather than upon their own efforts to move about in search of the seals. As seals constantly are going back and forth to and from the rookeries, it is obvious that all will be obliged to pass over the line representing the 3-mile limit. Notable among the schooners observing this method was the *Toyai Maru 2*, the crew of which in 1906 landed upon Northeast Point rookery and killed about 200 female seals. This schooner employs white hunters and uses the Japanese only for boat pullers. As the result of using only white hunters, this one vessel alone secured over 1,000 sealskins last summer.

Revenue-cutter patrol.—The patrol furnished by the revenue cutters was never before so thorough and effective as last summer. Rarely, if ever, was either island left without protection. One vessel was stationed constantly at St. George and at least one and usually two about St. Paul. The two cutters at St. Paul divided the coast line between them and each made daily cruises over its territory. In addition, one made its station at Northeast Point, while the other made its base at the village, thus covering both extremes of the island. Under these conditions it was difficult for poachers to come inside the 3-mile limit except in thick fog, when their movements could not be observed, and when, in fact, it is my judgment, they did enter on several occasions.

The cutters also regularly conveyed mail to and from the islands, and such island passengers as had occasion to go. I visited St. George Island on business twice during the summer, through the courtesy of the captains of the *Manning* and *Rush*, respectively.

Shore guard unnecessary.—The effective patrol maintained this summer demonstrates the lack of necessity of having a shore guard of marines in addition to that native guard already maintained by the agents. The undesirability of such guard could be demonstrated as readily.

The proposition to station sailors ashore to act as guards to prevent violations of our laws carries with it the proposition to abandon the effective patrol by the cutters heretofore maintained and to relieve these cutters of the necessity of constant cruising or, in fact, of anchoring at the islands except occasionally. Dependence would be had thereafter for enforcement of our laws mainly upon the shore guard and not upon the patrol about the islands by the cutters themselves.

To anyone familiar with the situation it is apparent that the protection of the seal islands embraces two elements—namely, first, the protection of the rookeries themselves from actual invasion, and, second, the maintenance of the integrity of our 3-mile limit. With only a shore guard stationed upon land, it is obvious that the 3-mile limit would be without protection, as the shore guard would not be upon the water, nor could it, on the treacherous shores of the seal islands, find landings when it desired to put off and apprehend marauders.

The shore-guard proposition, therefore, would amount virtually to an abandonment of the protection of our 3-mile limit and would place the situation in about the same status as it was in 1906, when poachers could operate without interference within the limit and approach our shores at will. This situation would make a poacher of every sealer in the Japanese fleet; it would invite raids upon the rookeries themselves, and, however unsuccessful the latter might be, would provide such a source of friction between the two Governments as would constitute an ever-present menace to the stability of the good feeling now existing between them.

It would be better policy, in my opinion, to continue the expense and trouble of the maintenance of the present effective patrol than to leave the islands without protection, except on land, where summary punishment for raids could be administered. To prevent crime is better than to punish it after its commission. The present patrol now prevents invasion of our territory. To abandon this patrol and to substitute only a shore guard in its place is to remove this element of prevention and to invite violations of our laws in the hope that we might afterwards apprehend and punish the offenders.

The present shore guard of natives uses great caution in moving about the rookeries to avoid disturbing the timid bachelor seals, from which the take of skins is secured. A shore guard of marines on the rookeries, unacquainted with the habits of the seals, and unable to distinguish bachelors from breeding cows, would create and maintain such confusion on the rookeries as would seriously interfere with the securing of the normal yield of skins.

Furthermore, the presence of such a guard in the villages creates difficulties of an administrative nature which should be avoided. On the other hand, to station such a guard at or near the rookeries would occasion a constant disturbance of seal life which would be equally objectionable. I recommend that a shore guard on the islands be not permitted.

AFFAIRS OF THE NATIVES.

Census of inhabitants.—A census of the islands for the year ended June 30, 1909, showed a total native population of 280. The individuals and groups composing this total may be classified as follows:

Native inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands, year ending June 30, 1909.

Class.	Number.		Class.	Number.	
	St. Paul.	St. George.		St. Paul.	St. George.
Families	41	22	Deaths	5	5
Males	100	43	Net increase	16	
Females	93	44	Net decrease		1
Arrivals	5		Total population	193	87
Births	16	4			

Schools.—As required by its lease, the North American Commercial Co. maintained on each island a school for children of the natives. The school year covered the period from September 1 to May 1, with five days of attendance each week, usual holidays excepted. On St. Paul Island the enrollment was 43; on St. George 21. Only the English language was taught, with the usual common-school elementary subjects. Except during the early part of the year, when an epidemic of mumps prevailed, the pupils were regular in attendance and made good progress.

Public health.—The general health on the islands during the year was good. An epidemic of mumps went through both islands during the fall of 1908, affecting nearly all the inhabitants, but without complications or serious effect. During the winter infants on both islands were attacked by impetigo contagioso, while the St. Paul population, including all the whites, were annoyed by scabies, or itch. This unpleasant disorder, the eradication of which requires rather heroic measures, still affects some of the St. Paul natives, who can not be prevailed upon to take the necessary arduous steps to stamp out the pest.

Earnings.—The natives on St. Paul realized during the sealing season ended July 31, 1909, $8,386.50 from the taking of 11,054 fur-seal skins, at 75 cents each, and 48 sea-lion skins, at $2 each. The St. George natives, during the same period, earned $2,485.50 from the taking of 3,314 fur-seal skins, at $2 each, and $1,795 from 357 blue-fox skins, at $5 each, and 10 white-fox skins, at $1 each. These sums, in conjunction with the appropriation of $19,500, make a total of $32,167 available for natives' support during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1910.

The amount was allotted between the two islands as follows:

285 tons coal for both islands, at $20 per ton	$5,700
St. Paul Island, 41 families	18,467
St. George Island, 19 families	8,000
Total	32,167

In the above allotment was included an allowance of $650 for the purchase of potatoes and onions for the population of St. Paul. A similar allowance was not made for St. George, as the potatoes and onions necessary for that island were paid for from a small balance of funds unexpended from the previous year.

In making the above allotment, the Government appropriation was apportioned as follows:

Coal for both islands	$5,700.00
St. Paul Island, natives' support	10,080.50
St. George Island, natives' support	3,719.50
Total	19,500.00

This arrangement, after payment of fixed charges, such as coal, potatoes, and onions, etc., represents a yearly per capita allotment for the 193 individuals on St. Paul of $91.81 and for the 87 inhabitants on St. George of $91.95.

I have to report that the lessee faithfully performed all the obligations of its contract, paying especial attention to those portions thereof having reference to the care and welfare of the natives.

Part II. Communications Relative to Revenue-Cutter Patrol.

Treasury Department,
Office of the Secretary,
Washington, February 3, 1909.

The honorable Secretary of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of a report dated September 29, 1908, from Senior Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Fleet during the season of 1908, and extracts of reports from officers under his command, as to the efficiency of the present system of guarding the seal islands, and submitting recommendations in relation thereto.

Respectfully,

J. B. Reynolds,
Acting Secretary.

Unalaska, Alaska,
September 29, 1908.

The honorable the Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following relating to the more effective protection of the seal rookeries on the Pribilof Islands.

The danger of raids is great, and the increasing number and activity of the Japanese sealers make the danger more serious each year.

That danger and the known inefficient guard of natives has been a source of great anxiety this season.

To properly lay the matter before the department I requested the commanding officers of the patrol fleet to outline their veiws as to the efficiency of the guard of natives maintained near the rookeries, and what, in their opinion, was the best means of securing these rookeries from danger.

Their reports are herewith inclosed and I concur in their opinions and would recommend that a guard of commissioned and enlisted force be stationed on the islands next year; and that a wireless station be installed on shore. If this be done I believe the work would be more efficient; the danger of raids eliminated.

Respectfully,

F. M. MUNGER,
Senior Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

[Extracts from the cruise reports by Capt. E. P. Bertholf, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding U. S. S. *Bear*, relating to the guard on St. Paul Island, and to the necessity of having a stronger guard there to protect the rookeries from raids.]

JULY 30, 1908.

To my mind, the incident of the reported raid, on the night of the 21st, illustrates the ease with which a raid can be made on St. Paul, due to the inadequate guard at the rookeries, and I deem it my duty to bring the matter to your notice. There is a telephone communication between Northeast Point and the village and between Zapadni and the village and a small guard of natives is maintained at each of these points—the guard at Northeast Point consisting of four natives. These four men could not prevent the landing of three or four boats, especially if thick weather permitted the boats to get close to the shore before they were discovered. If the telephone is working, a message to the village will bring assistance, of course, but, as this assistance must travel 12 miles to get to Northeast Point, it would give the raiders at least two hours in which to work their will on the seals and depart. If the telephone is not working, it means that a messenger must run to the village to give the alarm, and this means still further delay. On the night of the 21st instant, one of the four natives on guard at Northeast Point thought he saw several strange men who had landed, and the telephone being out of order, he ran to the village to give the alarm. He left Northeast Point at 10 p. m. and, being frightened, he covered the 12 miles to the village in an hour and a quarter. Special Agent Lembkey started for Northeast Point with reenforcements as soon as possible, but did not reach there until 3.45 a. m. Also, as soon as the messenger reached the village, Special Agent Judge proceeded to notify the *Bear*, but, the weather being foggy, the *Bear* was obliged to proceed with caution and could not reach Northeast Point before 4 a. m.

Now, had there really been a raid at 10 p. m. of the 21st, the raiders would have been practically undisturbed between 10 p. m. and 3.45 a. m. Thus, they would have had five and three-quarters hours in which to slaughter seals, skin them, and depart.

In addition, when there happens to be only one vessel at the island, as was the case on the night of the 21st, she, of course, can be at but

one place. If she anchors at Northeast Point, then the Zapadni or Tolstoi rookery is open to raids, at foggy times, and I understand that at the Tolstoi rookery there is no guard. If the vessel anchors at Village Cove, or in the vicinity, in order to protect the southern rookery, then the rookeries at Northeast Point are open to raid. The situation is still further complicated by the fact that, although the vessel can be communicated with by a boat at Village Cove if darkness or foggy weather prevents signals, she can not be communicated with if anchored at Northeast Point, for there they have neither boats nor signals. Of course, the reported raid on the night of the 21st was a myth, but the foregoing is cited to show how very little there is to prevent a raid if several boats from the sealing fleet are so minded.

In referring to a guard on the island, I mean officers and men landed from the fleet for this purpose. I understand that the reason that the native guard at present maintained at the rookeries is so small is because, up to the end of July, the services of as many men as can be obtained are needed for the almost daily drives and killings. Landing a sufficient number of officers and men from the fleet will overcome this condition, and undoubtedly the knowledge of a regular service guard on the island would have a greater effect on the sealing fleet than would a native guard. All of which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1908.

Referring to that portion of my report of July 30, wherein is shown the advisability of having a vessel always in the immediate neighborhood of Northeast Point of St. Paul Island, I desire to respectfully add the following:

Notwithstanding the vigilance and activity of the several vessels on patrol, my observation leads me to believe that the seal islands, and St. Paul in particular, are not, and can not be properly protected against marauding on the part of the sealing fleet without maintaining a guard on shore at Northeast Point. The necessity for maintaining a guard at Northeast Point is well understood by the representatives on the island, and the special agent in charge does maintain a guard of 4 natives at Northeast Point from the beginning of the season, and, for a portion of the season, a guard of 1 or 2 men at Zapadni Point. But these 4 men at Northeast Point and the 2 men at Zapadni are more in the nature of watchmen than guards. They patrol the shore line in the vicinity of the rookeries and hauling grounds at night and during fog and give notice to the village by phone of any encroachment by the boats from the sealing fleet. These 4 natives, however, can not be expected to be, and never have been, able to ward off any attempted raid on the rookeries without assistance. Unless a raid is attempted while the force from the village are killing at Northeast Point, the guard of 4 men can get assistance only by telephoning to the village. The village being 12 miles distant and the road being poor, it requires some time for assistance to get to Northeast Point, and during this period a marauding party could very well work its will and get away. In addition, it must be borne in mind that the skins taken at Northeast Point during the killing season are stored in the salt house there until the company's steamer comes up in August, and consequently

this salt house, containing thousands of sealskins ready for transportation, is protected by 4 natives only, who can get no assistance within two hours at least. The result of a raid by several boats under cover of fog or night can readily be predicted. The fact that no raids have been made this season is no reason to suppose none will be made in the following seasons.

Naturally a raid would not be made except under cover of fog or darkness. At such times there is no way in which the 4 native guards could get assistance from a cutter anchored at Northeast Point for the reason that there is no boat on the shore there. Therefore, if the cutter were anchored on one side of the point, and several boats landed on the other side of the point under cover of fog or night, for a purpose of making a raid on the salt house or the rookeries, there would be no way of notifying the cutter that assistance was needed, and assistance would have to come by way of the village, which is, as I have said, 12 miles away with a poor road. The 4 natives are armed, of course, and, in addition, there is a 1-pound field piece at Hutchinson Hill at Northeast Point. This gun, however, is a mile distant from the watch house, where the guard spends its time when not patrolling. Sometimes the breechblock and box of ammunition are kept at the gun and sometimes at the watch house. This gun, although a mile distant from the watch house, is but a quarter of a mile from the beach. To keep the ammunition at the gun means that both gun and ammunition would be captured by a landing force in a few minutes unless a guard was at the gun. If the guard remained at the gun they would be a mile away from the telephone, while, if they remained at the watch house, they would be a mile away from the gun. The presence of this gun and under these circumstances seems to fulfill no useful purpose.

Two years ago a raid was made at Northeast Point, which, although it was finally repulsed and several of the raiders killed, was not altogether unsuccessful, since a number of sealskins were taken off to the schooners. Furthermore, this raid was not repulsed by the native guard. It so happened that the force from the village had been killing the day before and had not all returned to the village. Even with this assistance being accidently present, the raiders were able to make way with some skins, and it is easy to conjecture what would have happened had only the 4 natives been at the point when the raid was made.

What is needed at Northeast Point is, of course, a guard. During the killing season on the island more than four men can not be spared from the natives, and, in my judgment, a force of not less than 20 men, with an officer and warrant officer, should be landed for guard duty at Northeast Point on St. Paul Island during the pelagic sealing season. The rookeries on St. Paul Island, from Polovina around to Zapadni, are still within easy reach of the village and can be protected from the village. If, however, any signs of danger were seen at Zapadni, a small portion of the 20 men could be sent there for guard duty. I learn there is an objection to such a guard, but it is not insurmountable. During the killing season on the island, which is practically the months of June and July, it is necessary that the hauling grounds be as undisturbed as possible, as it is from these grounds the seals are driven to the killing ground. When the seals are disturbed those on the hauling ground are apt

to take to the water, and under such circumstances it is difficult to obtain the quota of skins allowed for the season. The objection to the seamen guard is that, being unfamiliar with the habits of the seal, this guard, in patrolling, would disturb the seal and thus keep the hauling ground depleted. This objection can be easily remedied by maintaining, in addition to the 20 men from the cutters, the 4 natives now used as a guard and patrol, and causing a native to always accompany the seamen patrol to show how to pass the rookeries and hauling ground without disturbing the seals. It appears also that the boats from the sealing fleet sometimes come close to the shore under the cover of fog and, by continuous firing, endeavor to disturb the seal so that, many extra seals have taken to the water, the boats can then retreat outside the 3-mile limit and capture passing seals at their leisure. If the guard on the shore fires at these boats they but add to the disturbances of the seals and help to produce the result aimed at by the boats. The present native guard does sometime fire at the boats, and should the seamen guard also fire at the boats their firing would disturb the seals no more than at present.

In addition to these 20 men being able to repulse any raid without waiting for assistance, it is undoubtedly a fact that the known presence of a military guard on the islands would act as a strong deterrent against raids on the part of the pelagic sealing fleet.

With a guard on the island as outlined, and one vessel always in the immediate vicinity of Northeast Point, and another always in the immediate vicinity of Reef Point, there would be small chance of the pelagic sealing fleet doing damage inside the 3-mile limit.

Respectfully,

E. P. BERTHOLF,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

STEAMER "PERRY,"
Unalaska, Alaska, September 25, 1908.

SIR: I would respectfully submit to you the following suggestions for the better protecting of the seal rookeries on St. Paul Island against raiding parties from the sealing schooners hunting in Bering Sea, for, notwithstanding the activity of the cutters, it is not, in my opinion, impossible to make a successful raid on the rookeries and the salt houses under cover of fog or darkness or in the prevailing foggy weather.

The resident officials protect the rookeries by a native guard consisting of from one to four persons. From personal observations on shore at Northeast Point, at St. Paul Island, I feel satisfied that the native guard can not be depended upon to drive off raiders as they (the guards) are in many instances boys, easily frightened off, and inferior to the Japanese sealers in intelligence. In my opinion it is a very easy matter for a boatload of Japanese sealers to outwit the native guard and slip in for a successful raid. A telephone line runs to the rookeries so that assistance may be obtained from the village in case of a raid, but it can not be depended upon; the line is not only out of order at times, but it would be a simple matter for a party to slip ashore where no guards are posted and cut the wire. In case it

becomes necessary to obtain help from the village by messenger, it would take a person at least two hours to reach St. Paul from Northeast Point, and at least another two hours would be consumed before the necessary help could be gathered, teams hitched up, and the point of attack reached; four hours would give a couple of boats' crews from the sealers ample time to clean out the salt house and raid the rookery before the natives from the village could arrive on the scene. I have counted 37 sealing boats, each containing 3 to 4 men, barely outside of the 3-mile limit off Northeast Point; the 4 native guards at that point would be of absolutely no use if this force decided to raid under cover of darkness, in foggy weather, or during the absence of the patrol vessels.

To prevent such possible raids, I would suggest that a guard consisting of one commissioned officer, one warrant officer, and an adequate number of men be placed on St. Paul Island. The force should be so divided that the strongest part is at Northeast Point, because it is off this point that the Japanese sealers are most active. The force should have two whaleboats, one on each side of the point, so that they may launch from the beach in case they observe sealers coming within the 3-mile limit during the absence of the patrol vessels, or if they hear shots close by during foggy weather. During thick weather an armed patrol should walk the shore line in the vicinity of the rookeries, using the life-saving method of beach patrol. This guard should be on the island from June 15 to August 31, the time that the Japanese sealers spend in the Bering Sea. As the sealers are not very active around St. George Island, one officer and a few men would form a sufficient force for the protection of the rookeries on that island.

To properly quarter this force a house should be put up for them and furnished with cots, stove, and cooking utensils. I would recommend a house that can be purchased in sections ready to put together. The building now used by the native guard is not fit for a human being to live in; tents would not give the necessary protection against wet weather prevailing in Bering Sea.

Respectfully,

F. J. HAAKE,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

UNALASKA, ALASKA,
September 22, 1908.

Senior Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Patrol Fleet,
Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: From observations made as to the value of the present system of guarding the seal islands from raids on the rookeries or salt houses, especially at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, I find it to be entirely feasible to raid at Northeast Point during foggy weather or at night, even with a vessel at only one side of the point. With a vessel, however, at the point, the raid would have to be confined to the salt house, as a raid on the rookeries would disturb the seal to such an extent as to give warning to the vessel by their bellowing.

The natives are not reliable as to time or distance, are very superstitious, and without a white man to lead, would not make any serious defense. The guard of four men now maintained are not enough to repel an attack, and in order to have enough men for the drives and killings no more can be spared.

The Northeast Point salt house is about 11 miles from the village, where reenforcements would have to be obtained from by telephone (if working) or by a messenger, who could easily be intercepted; and a relief party would take about three hours to reach the Point, leaving ample time for the raiders with their small boat to empty the salt house. The guards have no means by which they could communicate with a vessel at anchor.

I would recommend that a force of 1 commissioned officer, 1 warrant officer, 1 cook, and 16 men be stationed at Northeast Point until September 10, when the salt house has been emptied and the sealers have nearly all left.

That a regular patrol be maintained by two guards going out together, one carrying a watchman's clock, the other Coston signals, to be followed every hour by another patrol, until these patrols are out, one man remaining on guard at the salt house and one outside the quarters, thus having eight men on watch at the time. These men to be relieved every four hours.

The patrols are only to be carried on during foggy weather and at night. During the first two weeks natives to go out with the patrol to show them the way about the rookeries, so as not to disturb the seals. During clear weather a lookout of two men to be kept on Hutchinsons Hill. A password should be given and changed daily.

A flagstaff should be erected on Hutchinsons Hill, from where international code signals could be made by day, and night signals with lanterns. A boat should be kept at each side of Northeast Point.

The natives could be employed to guard the rookeries near the village.

On St. George Island a guard is not necessary, but a vessel should be stationed there, and whenever the weather permits, should anchor off the Zapadni rookeries on the south side of the island, as that is the only rookery liable to be raided. The usual native guard should be stationed on shore.

A wireless station should be erected on each island, if possible.

St. Paul Island should never be left without a vessel near Northeast Point, or in communicating distance.

The fact that a properly organized guard would be stationed on the islands, if advertised through newspaper articles on this coast, would discourage any raids on the rookeries.

Respectfully,

D. F. A. DE OTTE,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER "McCULLOCH,"
AT SEA, BERING SEA,
August 7, 1908.

Senior Capt. F. M. MUNGER,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith, for your consideration and action, certain views relative to the duty on which this vessel is now engaged, the adoption of which, in my opinion, would make the protection of the seal rookeries on the islands of St. Paul and St. George not only more effective, but also eliminate the necessity of keeping so many vessels constantly cruising around these islands as is now the case.

The real protection of the seal rookeries rests on the vessels of the fleet, which cruises for several months each year around the islands.

The cost of maintaining the patrol is great, the coal consumption alone amounting to thousands of dollars.

Under the present system were it not for the presence of the vessels of the service, raids would doubtlessly be frequent, and despite the activity of the ships and the vigilance of the personnel it would not, in my opinion, be impossible to make a successful raid on the rookeries.

Means of communication between the authorities on shore and the vessels of the patrol is limited, and while attempts at landing, as well as sealing in territorial waters, have thus far been successfully frustrated, conditions might easily arise when it would be impossible to see or know of a raid until the same had become a fact.

The rookery at Northeast Point is the most important one on St. Paul Island, and in the past has only been defended by four natives, a very insufficient force in case of actual danger of a landing. Should a raid occur at any time at this point it would be necessary to bring aid from the village, 10 miles distant, which would take about two hours. Should the telephone connecting the village and Northeast Point be out of order, as is sometimes the case, one of the guard must first walk or run to the village before help can be obtained. In this case a long time would ensue before a sufficient guard could be mustered to repel the raiders.

In 1894, when stationed on St. George Island, in command of a detail of seamen for the purpose of protecting the island from raids, a close observation of the natives convinced me that it was doubtful whether they could be fully depended upon in case of emergency. A more recent observation and contact with them has not caused me to change my mind in this respect.

For several years it was the custom to keep on each of the seal islands a detail of seamen, under the charge of an officer of the Revenue-Cutter Service, and it is worthy of note that during that time not a single attempt at raiding was recorded.

It is a well-known fact that a small force of regulars is more efficient in case of a riot, etc., than a larger number of militia. The same applies, in my opinion, to these islands, and were it known to the Japanese sealers that a force of sailors, properly officered, guarded the rookeries, the danger from raids would cease.

I respectfully submit the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That a small wireless station, in charge of a Revenue-Cutter Service operator, be erected on the islands of St. Paul and St. George.

2. That a detail of 20 men, under the charge of a commissioned officer, properly equipped and provisioned, be stationed on the island of St. Paul from June 1 to September 1, inclusive. That a detail of 10 men, under the charge of a commissioned officer, properly equipped and provisioned, be stationed on the island of St. George from June 1 to September 1, inclusive.

3. That the detail on each island be camped at some advantageous point outside the village, and not be permitted to have any intercourse with the natives.

4. That a system of patrols similar to that used in the Life-Saving Service be maintained for the protection of the rookeries.

5. That the officer in command be held strictly accountable for the conduct of his men while on the islands, and, with the exception of protecting rookeries and preventing raids, the internal regulations governing the islands be made applicable to the landing force.

With the adoption of such a system full protection could be given the islands.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. DANIELS,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Commanding.

[Memorandum re recommendations of revenue-cutter officers to install wireless stations and to place a guard of enlisted men on the islands of St. Paul and St. George for protecting the seal rookeries from raids; also reports of said officers disparaging the efficiency of the native guard.]

Senior Capt. Munger, who commanded the Bering Sea Fleet last season, recommends, under date of September 29, 1908, "that a guard of commissioned and enlisted force be stationed on the islands next year, and that a wireless station be installed on shore." The first-named recommendation is indorsed by Capts. Bertholf of the *Bear*, Haake of the *Perry*, De Otte of the *Rush*, and Daniels of the *McCulloch;* the latter two only recommend the wireless station.

The placing of wireless apparatus on shore would doubtless afford protection and be of decided advantage, provided the revenue cutters on patrol were equipped with such apparatus. The *McCulloch* was the only cutter in Bering Sea last summer equipped with wireless.

The revenue officers mentioned are all apprehensive of raids, and skeptical as to the worth of the native guard in emergencies, or in the absence of white men. The skepticism is not shared by the agents of this department stationed on the islands. All of said agents, one of whom has had military experience, have confidence in the ability of the natives to perform efficient guard duty.

The natives are good marksmen, fond of firearms, and possess many of the attributes of good soldiers. As to what these natives are capable of doing in an emergency and in the absence of white men to direct them, see the report of Mr. Solicitor Sims, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, August 31, 1906, pages 15 and 16. Of course mistakes will be made, as was the case July 21 last, related by Capt. Bertholf, when one of the guards at Northeast Point took fright and ran to the village with a false report of a raid. The guard, consisting of four men, of whom three had gone out to patrol the rookeries,

had left this boy to clean up the guardhouse, with instructions to follow them later. When he left the house he heard the Japanese shooting seals in the water, but could not see his associates on account of the fog, and as the telephone was out of order he became panic-stricken and ran home. His conduct had no effect upon the remainder of the guard, who, when they learned of it, were much chagrined and chided him severely. This isolated case proves nothing to the detriment of the natives as guards. It may be noted, however, that this foolish chase was not entirely barren of results. Upon the arrival of the false report at the village, the *Bear*, then lying at anchor at the cove, was notified and immediately got under way for the point. In the meantime a relief party under Mr. Lembkey had started overland and arrived there some time before the *Bear;* but while this party could see the Japanese shooting in territorial waters, they were helpless until the cutter's arrival. Then Capt. Bertholf promptly seized two of the schooners and caused the others to hasten outside the 3-mile limit.

And these were the only seizures made during the summer.

The cutter officers lay some stress on the fact that the guard at Northeast Point consisted last summer of four men only, and that at Zapadni of two.

These officers are probably not aware of a fact, complimentary to them, that the efficient service rendered by the cutters last summer was responsible for the few men put on duty at the watch houses. In 1907 the regular guard at Northeast Point was never less than six. There was also a guard at Polovina of four men, and the Zapadni guard numbered four.

The watch houses were connected by telephone, and had Northeast Point been attacked the men at Polovina would have gone to the assistance of the point, and meantime reinforcements would have started from the village. The Polovina guard would have arrived at the point within an hour after being notified and those from the village within two or two and one-half hours.

The patrol fleet in both 1907 and 1908 consisted of four vessels, but in 1907 they steamed continuously and their whereabouts were often unknown to those on shore, but in 1908 they were more often at anchor and therefore available when needed.

The native guard are recruited from the sealing gang, and if the number taken for this purpose is large, the work of sealing drags. Taking advantage of the cutters' presence last summer, guard service was not kept at Polovina; also the number of guards at Northeast Point and Zapadni was reduced, so that the largest possible force could be left for sealing purposes.

The placing of an armed force on the islands, as advocated by the revenue-cutter captains, for the purpose of protecting the rookeries and salt houses from raids would not lessen the necessity for a fleet of cutters in the sea, or permit of that fleet being reduced in numbers below its present status. So long as the Japanese are pursuing pelagic sealing the violations of our laws will occur in territorial waters rather than on the beaches of the islands. Any guard on shore is powerless to prevent the destruction of seals in the water within the 3-mile limit by marauders sharp enough to keep out of rifle range.

It is true that if the guard hears firing in the fog they may launch a boat and go off, as suggested by Capt. Haake, but that could better

be done from a ship, as the surf in that case would not have to be taken into consideration.

On the other hand, except for actually repelling invaders, a contingency considered remote if the cutters remain near, the probabilities are that a guard such as proposed would unwittingly work disaster to seals on shore. Patrolling the rookeries in such manner as to observe the seals and shore line without frightening these animals into the water is quite difficult and involves a knowledge of the topography, the haunts of the seals, their natural change of position from time to time, climatic conditions and changes as they affect seal life, etc., all of which is of lifelong knowledge to the native guards, but requiring long experience and application in others. The most effective service the enlisted men can render is to stay on board their ships, and the best service the ships can render is to so arrange their movements as to be generally near the islands and within easy communication of the shore. In foggy weather a good plan would be for the cutters to send out several small boats at such times as the firing should indicate that the Japanese were sealing inshore.

Those small boats should steal up on the trespassers and take them in the act of illegal sealing, a thing difficult to accomplish when the vessel proceeds under steam, thus giving warning by the noise of her machinery. The small boats might be sent alongshore where they could feel their way by soundings.

It has been suggested that the natives are poor judges of distance, etc. Granting this to be so, it must be conceded that people from elevated points on shore can observe better the operations of the pelagic fleet than is possible from the deck of a patrolling vessel. The International Code is available for signaling at both the village and Northeast Point; but in the absence of white men to handle this code at the point, it would be an easy matter to formulate a simple code for the use of the natives, or, conditions favoring, boats might be used to convey information to the cutters. In fact this subject was discussed last year, but definite action was not taken.

The statement relative to the absence of a guard at Tolstoi rookery is true. It is equally true that this rookery, which is only about 1 mile from the village, is under the eye of the Zapadni guards.

Capt. Bertholf's statement that the fieldpiece on Hutchinson Hill fulfills no useful purpose is erroneous. It was placed there with the purpose of firing upon hostile vessels coming close enough to receive its shot; and, further, to hold such vessels until they may be properly seized. That this gun would quickly fall into the hands of a landing party is doubtful, but if it did it would be unavailable to the invaders, as the breechblock is hidden in one place and the ammunition in another. It may be stated that the Japanese who have landed hitherto on the islands from the sealing schooners have not impressed the natives as being an extraordinary class of people.

Capt. Bertholf's statement that only four men could be spared for guard duty at Northeast Point was of course made without full information or knowledge of the procedure on the islands as late as 1907.

The proposition to place a guard of 20 men at Northeast Point is not approved, because the men of such guard would lack the requisite knowledge of seal life and would therefore surely drive the seals into the water. Any scheme of sending natives along with these white men as guides, as has been suggested, must be treated as

impracticable, as it is not the custom of white sailors to take suggestions from natives. Their contempt for the efficiency of the natives is well known.

That the presence of a military guard would act as a deterrent against raids may be questioned. Raids have frequently been made on the Commander Islands, where a military guard is stationed. The proper deterrent is a commissioned vessel that will pursue, overtake, and arrest marauders desperate enough to risk their lives in raiding.

Capt. Daniels says: "For several years it was the custom to keep on each of the seal islands a detail of seamen, under the charge of an officer of the Revenue-Cutter Service, and it is worthy of note that during that time not a single attempt at raiding was recorded." This is true, but he might have added that no raiding was attempted for 10 years after the custom alluded to ceased.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

MARCH 3, 1909.

SIR: Replying to the department's letter of February 3, inclosing copy of a report dated September 29, 1908, from Senior Capt. F. M. Munger, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet during the season of 1908, together with extracts from reports of officers under his command relative to the present system of guarding the seal islands, and recommending the substitution of a guard of sailors, and that wireless stations be erected on the seal islands, I have the honor to say that it is the opinion of the agents of the seal fisheries, in which view this department concurs, that the proper patrolling of the rookeries requires an acquaintance with the topography of the land, the climatic conditions as they affect seal life, the general characteristics of the seals, their haunts and natural changes of position from day to day, etc. Such knowledge is possessed by the natives of the islands through long familiarity with the local conditions and could only be acquired by the proposed white guard through long experience. It is believed that the absence of such knowledge might lead to the stampeding of the seals and consequent serious loss to the herd.

In view of these facts it is not deemed advisable to adopt at the present time the suggestions of Capt. Munger and the other officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service. The establishment of wireless stations on the seal islands will receive careful consideration.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

CHARLES EARL,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. GEORGE B. CORTELYOU,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 1, 1909.

Capt. W. V. E. JACOBS,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Seattle, Wash.

SIR: You are informed that the President has designated the revenue cutters *Bear, Manning, Perry,* and *Rush* to cruise as far as may be practicable the present season, in the north Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, including the waters of Alaska, within the domain of the United States, for the enforcement of the act of Congress, approved December 29, 1897, and the Regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration decreed the 15th day of August, 1893, for the preservation of the fur seals.

2. Under the provisions of the act of Congress above referred to, it is unlawful for any citizens or vessel of the United States to engage in pelagic sealing at any time or in any manner in the waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the 35th degree of north latitude, and including the Bering Sea and the sea of Okhotsk. You are therefore directed to seize any vessel of the United States found navigating the waters as above indicated, in violation of the law, and send the same to the nearest or most accessible port of the United States, upon arrival there to be surrendered to the custody of competent authority having jurisdiction.

3. Since, under the enactment by Congress above referred to and given in full in the Regulations, Fur-Seal Fishing Season of 1902 (which apply to the present season), vessels of the United States are prohibited absolutely from engaging in fur-seal fishing within the geographical limits prescribed, it follows that the Regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration (given in full herewith) are applicable only to British vessels, and that fur-seal fishing is prohibited to subjects of Great Britain at any time or in any manner within a zone of 60 geographic miles around Pribilof Islands, inclusive of territorial waters, and from May 1 to July 31 in that part of the Pacific Ocean, inclusive of Bering Sea, situated north of the 35th degree of north latitude and eastward of the 118th degree of longitude from Greenwich, until it strikes the water boundary described in article 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Bering Straits.

4. You will arrange with the senior British naval officer at Unalaska engaged in carrying out the provisions of the award, for the mutual delivery of vessels of the one country seized by officers of the other.

5. The following instructions in relation to the enforcement of the fur-seal regulations are issued for your guidance:

(*a*) The terms of the award apply only to vessels of the United States and Great Britain. The first duty of the boarding officer is to satisfy himself by an inspection of her documents as to the vessel's nationality. Vessels boarded beyond the legal jurisdiction of the United States and found to be of a nationality not included in the award are not to be searched or detained longer than is necessary to establish the fact.

(*b*) Long chases are not advisable. After a vessel is brought within reach of your guns if she does not bring to, display the national

ensign and open fire. Fire one blank and one solid shot as a warning. If she still neglects to come to the wind, aim to hit, and use the force at your command to compel her to submit to being boarded and searched.

(*c*) A mere cursory or perfunctory search of vessels boarded is strictly forbidden. The search must be made by two commissioned officers, or one commissioned and one petty officer, and the necessary number of men, who are required to remain on board until every part of the vessel where a sealskin or a shotgun or rifle could be concealed has been searched.

(*d*) Boarding officers are required to exercise courtesy and forbearance and avoid all discussions. Offensive remarks or actions by members of the crew or others on board the vessel being searched are under no circumstances to be taken notice of.

(*e*) Should a sealskin be found on board that bears satisfactory evidence of having been shot within the Bering Sea, or killed in any manner within the area of the award in the Pacific Ocean between April 30 and August 1, or within 60 miles of the Pribilof Islands, at any time, the vessel must be seized.

(*f*) Any vessel of Great Britain found within the area of the award during the closed season engaged in fur-seal fishing or fitted for fur-seal fishing and not being provided with the special sealing license, is ordered seized. When any licensed sealing vessel of Great Britain is found within the area of the award during the closed season having on board a seal-hunting outfit, she should be seized only if it be found that she was sealing or contemplating sealing within the area at that time. If the boarding officer finds evidence of the recent use of her boats and sealing outfit, or that they were in readiness for immediate use for taking fur seals, the matter should be closely investigated and if the circumstances warrant she should be seized.

(*g*) Only sailing vessels are permitted to engage in fur-seal fishing during the period of time and in the waters in which fur-seal fishing is allowed. Any vessel propelled in whole or in part by steam or other motive power than sail, found so engaged, is ordered seized.

(*h*) If a vessel which appears to be a sealing vessel is found within the area during the period of time in which fur-seal fishing is forbidden, you will ascertain whether she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing; whether she was carried there by stress of weather, by a mistake during foggy or thick weather, or is there in the ordinary course of navigation making the best of her way to any place. You must judge whether such vessel has been engaged in fur-seal fishing from the presence of seal skins or bodies of seals on board, or salt, and from other circumstances and indications.

(*i*) If such vessel is found outside of the area of the award and it is evident that she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing within said area, and has thus committed an offense, you will seize her. A vessel may violate the law by her boats fur-seal fishing within said area while the vessel herself is outside of said area.

(*j*) When you make a seizure you will at the time thereof draw up a declaration, in writing, stating the conditions on the seized vessel, the date and exact place of seizure, giving latitude and longitude and any additional data by which exact location may be determined and circumstances showing guilt. Arms or skins found (the cause of seizure) as well as all papers must be examined on board the seized

vessel, and so marked as to be readily identified by the boarding officers when produced in court or elsewhere. This is important and must not be neglected.

(*k*) The seized vessel will be taken or sent, as soon as practicable, with all persons on board thereof, in charge of a sufficient force to insure delivery, together with witnesses and proofs, and the declaration of the officer making the seizure, if American, to the most convenient port of California, Oregon, Washington, or Alaska, and delivered to the officers of the United States court; and if British, to Unalaska and there delivered to the senior British naval officer present, or taken to the most convenient port in British Columbia and delivered to the proper authorities of Great Britain, or deliver her to the commanding officer of any British vessel authorized to receive her.

(*l*) A signed and certified list of papers of the seized vessel will be delivered to the master thereof, and duplicate copy transmitted with the declarations.

(*m*) Any British vessel boarded and found not to be subject to seizure will be furnished with a copy of the fur-seal regulations.

[Paragraph (*n*) et seq. illegible. Original not available for complete reproduction.]

7. Prior to August 1 the efforts of the vessels should be directed toward preventing raids on the islands. After that date when the Canadians are allowed to begin sealing one of the vessels should share with the British cruiser on patrol the duty of maintaining the 60-mile zone. As the Japanese fleet, however, will probably be most active in August, the patrol of the zone should be subsidiary to the protection of the islands.

8. The control of Bering Sea should be continued until every sealer has left the sea or until about October 15, and as the last cutter leaves the sea in the fall the commanding officer should make a special trip to the islands for the purpose of obtaining for the Government the latest information regarding the conditions thereon.

Respectfully,

CHARLES D. NORTON,
Assistant Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

I concur in the above instructions.

CHARLES NAGEL.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 3, 1909.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: It is the desire of this department to have the revenue cutter *Bear*, on her way north this season, make certain investigations of reported depredations along the coast of Alaska by pelagic sealing

vessels. Upon the completion of this work the *Bear* would join the patrol fleet in Bering Sea about June 20. The Captain Commandant of the Revenue-Cutter Service has conferred with Maj. E. W. Clark, assistant agent of seal fisheries, in regard to this matter, and he sees no objection to it.

It is requested to know whether such a course meets with your approval.

Respectfully,

C. D. HILLES,
Acting Secretary.

MAY 6, 1909.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In reply to your letter of May 3, I have the honor to say that the proposed investigation, by the *Bear*, of reputed depredations by pelagic sealing vessels on the coast of Alaska, meets with the approval of this department.

I have to further advise you that the Bureau of Fisheries desires to have made during the coming summer a census of the seal herd on the Pribilof Islands. To make this desire effective it is necessary to have special transportation for the bureau's agent, Mr. George A. Clark, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Revenue-Cutter Service furnish transportation as follows:

July 1, from Dutch Harbor to St. George.
July 3, from St. George to St. Paul.
July 17 or 18, from St. Paul to St. George.
July 19 to 20, from St. George to St. Paul.
August 11, from St. Paul to Dutch Harbor.

It is also requested that while the count of pups is in progress on St. Paul, from about August 5 to August 10, the patrol about the island be made as close and effective as possible to prevent the pelagic sealers taking advantage of possible disturbance of the rookeries.

Respectfully,

ORMSBY MCHARG,
Acting Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 28, 1909.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the following telegram from Capt. W. V. E. Jacobs, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, dated Unalaska, Alaska, July 13, has been received at this department:

Perry arrived night 11th instant with seized Japanese schooner *Tenyu Maru* and 17 men. Trial before commissioner here to-day resulted in master and crew being held for trial before next term court held Valdez.

Respectfully,

C. D. HILLES,
Acting Secretary.

[Copy.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "BEAR,"
St. Paul Island, July 31, 1909.

The COMMANDING OFFICER,
Bering Sea Patrol Fleet,
Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: In response to your letter of the 26th instant, requesting such suggestions as I deemed would add to the efficiency and conduct of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, I have the honor to submit the following:

My observations during the past two seasons have convinced me that the seal islands, and St. Paul in particular, can not be efficiently guarded against raiding and marauding on the part of the pelagic sealing fleet by means of the work of the vessels alone. There should be an armed guard placed at St. George and St. Paul during the sealing season, the guard to be detailed from the patrol fleet for the purpose.

On St. George I would suggest 10 men with an officer and a warrant officer, disposed as follows: One officer with six men to guard the rookeries at Zapadni and the other officer with the remaining four men to guard the rookeries in the vicinity of the village. This will enable a watch to be maintained at all times at these two important points. The six men at Zapadni will be sufficient to protect that section against raiding, while the four men at the village can get help from the village if necessary.

On St. Paul I would suggest 20 men with 1 officer and 3 warrant officers, or 2 officers and 2 warrant officers, disposed as follows: One officer and 8 men at Northeast Point rookeries; 1 officer and 4 men at Polovina rookeries; 1 officer and 4 men at Zapadni rookeries; 1 officer and 4 men at the village rookeries and Reef Point.

This would allow for a constant watch at these four principal rookery sections of the island. The four men at Polovina and Zapadni would be sufficient to protect the comparatively small rookeries there. The eight men would be sufficient for the Northeast Point rookeries, while the four men at Reef Point could get help from the village in case of necessity.

Of the two islands, St. George is the easier island to protect since it is the smaller and the shores being steep close to, a vessel can get from place to place within a reasonable time. At St. Paul there is foul ground at most of the projecting points, the almost constant fog makes it necessary for the vessels to proceed with caution, and in addition a vessel steams 36 miles in making the circuit of the island in clear weather. When it is foggy the distance around the island is much greater owing to the need of giving the shoal points a wider berth.

From this it is easily seen that during the foggy weather, while a vessel is feeling her way around the island, unable to receive any word from shore, it would be a simple matter for a schooner's boats to raid some other point, unless there was an armed guard on shore. The necessity of a guard is well understood by the representatives on St. Paul and the special agent in charge does maintain a guard of four natives at Northeast Point from the beginning of the season, and for a portion of the season a guard of one or two men at Zapadni Point.

But these four men at Northeast Point are more in the nature of watchmen than guards. They patrol the shore line in the vicinity of the rookeries and hauling grounds during fog and give notice to the village by phone of any encroachment by the boats of the sealing fleet. These four natives, however, can not be expected to be, and never have been, able to ward off an attempted raid on the rookeries without assistance. Unless a raid be attempted while the force from the village are killing seals at Northeast Point, the watchmen can get assistance only by telephoning to the village. The village being 12 miles distant and the road poor, it requires some time for assistance to get to Northeast Point, and, during this period, a marauding party could very well work its will and get away. In addition, it must be borne in mind that the skins taken at Northeast Point during the killing season are stored in the salt house there until the company's steamer comes up in August, and consequently this salt house, close to the beach, containing thousands of sealskins ready for transportation, is protected by four natives who can get no assistance within two hours at the least. The result of a raid by several boats under cover of fog or night can readily be predicted. The fact that no raid has been made this seasen is no reason to suppose that none will be attempted in following seasons.

Naturally a raid would not be made except under cover of fog or darkness. At such times there is no way in which the four native watchmen could get assistance from a cutter anchored at Northeast Point for the reason that there is no boat on the shore there. Therefore, if the cutter were anchored on the side of the point, and several boats landed on the other side of the point under cover of fog or darkness, for the purpose of making a raid on the salt house or the rookeries, there would be no way of notifying the cutter that assistance was needed and assistance would have to come by way of the village, which is, as I have said, 12 miles away with a bad road. The four natives are armed, of course, and in addition, there is a 1-pound fieldpiece at Hutchinson Hill at Northeast Point. This gun, however, is a mile distant from the watch house, where the watchmen spend their time when not patrolling. Sometimes the breechblock and box of ammunition are kept at the gun and sometimes at the watch house. This gun, although a mile distant from the watch house, is but a quarter of a mile from the beach. To keep the ammunition at the gun means that both gun and ammunition would be captured by a landing force in a few minutes unless the watchmen were at the gun. If the watchmen remained at the gun they would be a mile away from the telephone, while if they remained at the watch house they would be a mile away from the gun.

Three years ago a raid was made at Northeast Point, which, although finally repulsed and several of the raiders killed, was not altogether unsuccessful, since a quite number of sealskins were taken off to the schooner. Furthermore, this raid was not repulsed by the native watchmen. It so happened that the force from the village had been killing the day before and had not all returned to the village. Even with this assistance being accidentally present the raiders were able make way with some skins, and it is easy to conjecture what would have happened had only the four natives been at the point when the raid was made.

During the night of July 21, last season, news of a reported raid at Northeast Point reached the *Bear*, at anchor at Village Cove, St. Paul Island, and as the circumstances of that affair have a direct bearing upon my recommendations, I quote below from my report to the commanding officer, Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, date July 30, 1908:

To my mind the incident of the reported raid of the 21st (July, 1908) illustrates the ease with which a raid can be made on St. Paul, due to the inadequate guard at the rookeries, and I deem it my duty to bring the matter to your notice. There is telephone communication between Northeast Point and the village and between Zapadni and the village, and a small guard of natives is maintained at each of these points, the guard at Northeast Point consisting of four natives. These four natives could not prevent the landing of three or four boats, especially if thick weather permitted the boats to get close to the shore before they were discovered. If the telephone is working, a message to the village will bring assistance, of course, but as this assistance must travel 12 miles to get to Northeast Point, it would give the raiders at least two hours in which to work their will on the seals and depart. If the telephone is not working, it means that a messenger must run to the village to give the alarm, and this means still further delay. On the night of the 21st instant one of the four natives on guard at Northeast Point thought he saw several strange men who had landed, and the telephone being out of order, he ran to the village to give the alarm. He left Northeast Point at 10 p. m. and, being frightened, he covered the 12 miles to the village in an hour and a quarter. Special Agent Lembkey started for Northeast Point with reinforcements as soon as possible, but did not reach there until 3.45 a. m. Also as soon as the messenger reached the village Special Agent Judge proceeded to notify the *Bear*, but, the weather being foggy, the *Bear* was obliged to proceed with caution and could not reach Northeast Point before 4 a. m.

Now had there really been a raid at Northeast Point in this instance, the raiders would have been practically undisturbed from 10 p. m. until 3.45 a. m. They would thus have had five and three-quarter hours in which to slaughter seals or empty the salt house and depart.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that although a vessel at anchor at Village Cove can be communicated with by signals in clear weather and by boat during fog or darkness, a vessel at anchor at Northeast Point can get no word from the shore, for there they have neither signals nor boats. It is not necessary for a raiding party to use firearms in attacking the rookeries or the salt house, and in such case, in the dense fogs that prevail, a successful raid could be accomplished and a vessel anchored at Northeast Point be none the wiser, since, as I have pointed out, the native watchmen have no means of getting word to the vessel.

Without a guard on shore, four vessels on patrol, or even six, can not insure immunity from raids, while with a guard on shore, three vessels on patrol would be ample, as that would give two vessels at the islands at all times.

Aside from the physical efficiency of a guard, the known presence of an armed force at the rookeries would have considerable moral effect and undoubtedly act as a strong deterrent against raiding on the part of the sealing fleet.

Respectfully,

(Signed) E. P. Bertholf,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding.

[Copy.]

REPORT OF SEALING OPERATIONS IN THE BERING SEA DURING THE SEASON OF 1909.

Pelagic sealing in the Bering Sea has been conducted exclusively by Japanese and Canadian schooners.

The Japanese schooners which follow the herd up off the British Columbian and Alaskan coasts entered the Bering Sea between June 20 and July 1. Those which came directly into the sea from Japan reached the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands during the latter part of June.

From June 7 to June 17 six Japanese schooners visited Attu Island, namely: June 7, *Chitose Maru;* June 10, *Chitose Maru No. 2;* June 13, *Domei Maru;* June 13, *Eiun Maru;* June 14, *Konei Maru;* June 16, *Chihokuni Maru.*

During this time two other vessels appeared off the island, but seeing a revenue cutter in the harbor hauled off to the eastward. One Japanese schooner, whose name could not be learned, is reported to have put into the harbor at Attu on May 14.

Five Canadian sealing schooners were granted licenses for sealing during this season, namely, the *Jessie, Pescawha, Thomas F. Bayard, Vera,* and *Eva Marie.* Of these, the *Pescawha, Thomas F. Bayard,* and *Jessie* were boarded in the neighborbood of the Semidi Islands on June 23. The masters of these vessels stated that it was their intention to visit the Commander Islands (Russian) and later, August 1, to seal in the Bering Sea.

During the period between June 24 and September 2, the Japanese schooners vigorously conducted pelagic-sealing operations, and it was necessary for the patrol fleet to observe great diligence in order to maintain the integrity of territorial waters about the Pribilofs.

On July 9 the revenue cutter *Perry* seized the Japanese schooner *Tenyu Maru,* having captured one of her boats within the 3-mile limit with the body of a recently shot seal in it. The schooner was brought to Unalaska, and after a preliminary hearing before the United States commissioner at that place the master and crew, a total of 17 men, were bound over to the grand jury at Valdez, Alaska, for trial at the October session of the United States district court. They were transported to Valdez on the revenue cutter *Perry* and given into the custody of the United States marshal on September 4, to await trial before a Federal grand jury.

On June 27 the revenue cutter *Rush* sailed from Unalaska for Nome to take on board at the latter place and transport him to the Pribilof Islands, Mr. George A. Clark, a scientist and an agent of the Bureau of Fisheries. Owing to a delay in the arrival at Nome on July 8 of the Seattle steamer upon which Prof. Clark was a passenger, he was not taken on board of the *Rush* until that date. On July 11 Prof. Clark was landed at the village on St. Paul Island for the purpose of studying fur-seal life. He was afforded transportation between St. Paul and St. George Islands and return on July 15–16 and 18, on the revenue cutter *Manning.* On August 5 Prof. Clark was taken on board of the *Manning* and afforded an opportunity of cruising in the southwest quadrant of the 60-mile restricted zone around the Pribilofs, but no sealing vessels were seen in that part of the Bering Sea.

He was landed at Unalaska on August 9, his researches at the seal islands having been completed.

During the months of August and September, in addition to maintaining a patrol around the islands, the 60-mile restricted zone was patrolled for protection against incursions by the Canadian sealing schooners. In this work, the duties of the revenue cutters were supplemented by H. M. S. *Algerine*. In the notes submitted to me by the commanding officer of the *Algerine*, covering the cruises made by that ship this season, I am informed that no Canadian vessels were sighted. The cruises extended into all parts of the 60-mile zone. Seven Japanese sealing schooners were boarded and sighted from the *Algerine*, and she left the Bering Sea on September 3.

During the cruises of the ships of the revenue-cutter patrol fleet in this restricted area no Canadian vessels were seen, and it is thought that those of them that entered Bering Sea conducted sealing operations from 150 to 200 miles to the northward and eastward of the Pribilof Islands. The master of the Canadian sealing schooner *Thomas F. Bayard* put into this (Unalaska) harbor on August 17 and stated to the boarding officer at this port, when her firearms were sealed previous to her departure, at the request of her master, that it was his intention to seal about 200 miles north and east of the islands. Although all quadrants of the 60-mile zone have been patrolled, the result as to Canadians has been negative.

Unofficial information was received that there were 21 Japanese schooners licensed for fur sealing in the Bering Sea this season. The ships of the patrol fleet boarded 20, and, in addition, the British cruiser boarded or spoke 3 others, showing that there were 23 in the sea. The following table shows the names of the vessels, the date when boarded, and the number of sealskins reported on board at the time when boarded:

Boarded by Bering Sea Fleet.

Name.	Master.	From.	Date.	Skins.	Date.	Skins.
1. Hoko Maru	Sakabara	Tokyo	July 21	177	.....	177
2. Domei Maru	Nishiwa	do	11	92	Aug. 10	252
3. Eiun Maru No. 2.	Satoma Neake Chi	Rikuzen	11	148	14	450
4. Konei Maru	Kadowaki	Kogoshima	11	39	.....	.....
5. Chihokuni Maru.	Kohoshi	Hakodate	26	330	Aug. 20	400
6. Toro Maru	K. Shishido	do	19	225	.....	225
7. Nitto Maru	Tokameatsu	Miyokocho	11	310	Aug. 10	850
8. Kofugi Maru	Kadowaki	Hakodate	3	6	.....	6
9. Toyei Maru No. 2	Hana Sato	Shimasato	26	936	.....	936
10. Tenyu Maru	Nakanishi	Tokyo	9	39	(1)	39
11. Shimushu Maru.	M. Shiono	do	11	62	.....	62
12. Chitose Maru	S. Mizukamy	do	26	155	Aug. 14	800
13. Chitose Maru No. 2.	K. Meura	Rikuzen	31	152	.....	152
14. Tokai Maru	I. Arawaka	Minato	31	272	Aug. 10	438
15. Koyei Maru	D. Mauo	Isibama	11	160	10	355
16. Too Maru	K. Yashido	Shirota	11	47	.....	47
17. Boso Maru No. 2.	G. Yamanaka	Minato	11	96	Aug. 17	202
18. Hokushin Maru.	Toyotaro Kinshita	Sendai	Aug. 6	86	17	101
19. Matsu Maru	Yasuoka	Tokyo	10	595	.....	595
20. Hokuyo Maru	Egiro Kodata	do	26	20	.....	20
						6,146

[1] Seized.

Additional Japanese vessels boarded by H. M. S. "Algerine."

Name.	Date.	Skins.
1. Chidori Maru	Aug. 16	44
2. Kaiwo Maru	16	300
3. Funakoshi Maru	17	120
		464

The total number of pelts reported is doubtless not entirely reliable, as the experience of the boarding officers demonstrates that when the same vessel has been boarded within a few days by officers from different cutters the catch of seals reported has shown an irreconcilable discrepancy. This may be the result either of error on the part of the interpreter or an intent to mislead, but probably the former. I consider the total of 6,610 skins, as shown in the table, as approximately correct upon the dates given, but it will be observed that a number of the sealers were not boarded later than the month of July, and in consequence their August catch is not known. A reasonable allowance for these eight vessels, together with the number during the last days of the sealing season, would make, I estimate, a total catch for the season of 10,000 fur seals.

Owing to the fact that our right to board these sealing schooners is based upon that of determining their nationality, and that when this nationality is established as other than British the right of search can go no further, it has not been possible to obtain information by personal investigation as to the exact number of skins taken.

At 11 o'clock on the night of August 25, a small boat belonging to the Japanese schooner *Tokai Maru*, with four Japanese sealers, went alongside of the revenue cutter *Rush*, and the occupant sasked for shelter and refuge, stating that they had lost their schooner and were in danger of perishing. Two sealskins, the unskinned body of a seal, and a sealing outfit were in the boat. They were taken on board of the *Rush*, and as that ship was then at anchor off Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, the commanding officer considered their presence there sufficiently suspicious for further investigation, and brought the men and their outfit to Unalaska, having failed to find the *Tokai Maru*. After inquiring into the facts of the case, it was learned that the seals could not have been killed within territorial waters, and I directed that the men be returned to their vessel or to some other Japanese vessel if the *Tokai Maru* could not be found. All search failed to disclose the *Tokai Maru*, and the hunters stated that it had been the master's intention to sail for Japan the day after they were lost, which was doubtless done. All efforts failed to find any other Japanese schooner in the vicinity of the islands or within the 60-mile zone. They were given quarters and subsistence on revenue cutters until they could be taken to Seattle and delivered over to the proper authorities.

Walrus Island is a reservation for the preservation of birds and such marine animals as sea lions and hair seals as may breed there. It has no fur-seal rookery on it and so far as it is known the fur seal do not haul on it.

On September 2 Seal Agent James Judge, while on this island in pursuit of his duties relative to that reservation, seized two small

Japanese boats with six men, one fur seal, and sealing outfits. At that time the revenue cutter *Bear* was cruising on the north side of St. Paul, and the *Manning*, which had come up from St. George, communicated with the *Bear* and proceeded to carry out instructions to make a cruise in the northeast quadrant of the 60-mile zone. When Mr. Judge returned to St. Paul Island with his seizures and communicated with the *Bear*, the *Manning* was recalled by wireless, and both cutters started to search for the Japanese schooner *Eiun Maru*, to which the men and boats belonged. It was then night, and though the search continued throughout the night and the next day, nothing was seen of the schooner. The six men were brought to Unalaska on the *Bear* and were brought to trial before the United States commissioner at that place on September 8. I acted as prosecutor in the case, and the six Japanese were convicted. They were given a sentence of three months in jail and a fine of $200 and costs. A failure to pay the fine and costs would extend the jail sentence to more than six months. They were sent to Valdez on the revenue cutter *Rush*, leaving Unalaska on September 30, for delivery to the United States marshal.

The data obtained from the sealing schooners by the boarding officers indicate that the most profitable time for pelagic sealing for the Japanese is during the first three weeks of the month of August. This is what would be expected, as the female seals put to sea in greatest numbers during that time in order to procure food, and are taken by the hunters both when leaving the islands and in returning to them. Pelagic sealing operations have been conducted almost exclusively around St. Paul Island during this season, and for the most part at a distance of from 5 to 20 miles southwesterly from the island. The decrease in the number of seals taken on St. Paul Island this year and the increase in the number taken on St. George Island might be traced to the fact that the Japanese schooners confined their sealing to the vicinity of St. Paul, thus leaving the herds at St. George practically undisturbed.

During several conferences with the commanding officer of H. M. S. *Algerine*, Commander Edwards, R. N., relative to pelagic sealing, I received the impression that he would recommend in his report of his cruise that the powers interested in fur-seal fishing agree by convention to a closed area formed by a radius of 200 nautical miles about the Pribilof Islands, and the removal of other restrictions now in force as against British subjects. Upon being questioned by him relative to this agreement, I stated that, in my opinion, it would not meet the requirements of the case, if the object be to preserve and increase the seal herds, and that it would only somewhat prolong the period before the extinction of the animals. I suggested to him that a more satisfactory plan would be a prohibition of sealing operations within 200 miles of all United States territory, leaving open to Canada her entire coast line for sealing purposes, without restrictions. It was merely a tentative suggestion, to which he gave some heed, but I conclude that he will adhere to the 200-mile radius about the Pribilofs as the basis of his recommendations in the matter.

It is considered necessary for the protection of the rookery at Northeast Point, and also of the salt house located there, to have some native watchmen stationed there. The guard at that point should be provided with a set of International Code signal flags, with which

to communicate with the revenue cutter on duty in that vicinity. During the past season it has not been possible to establish communication by signal at Northeast Point between ship and shore, owing to the fact that the only set of signals on St. Paul Island is needed at the village, and is kept there, 12 miles distant from Northeast Point. This should be remedied before another season by providing another set of signals for use at this point. A ship on one side of Northeast Point can not be conversant with actual conditions on the other side, while the watchmen ashore can see both sides. They should be provided with the means of acquainting the ships with these conditions for proper protection.

A brief résumé of the work of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet for this season shows that a continuous patrol was kept around the Pribilof Islands from June 4 to October 10. Twenty Japanese and 3 Canadian sealing schooners were boarded, reporting a catch of 6,610 fur-seal skins. One Japanese sealing schooner, the *Tenyu Maru*, with 17 men, was seized, and the vessel held at Unalaska pending the trial of the men at Valdez for violation of the sealing laws. Six Japanese, seized on Walrus Island by Special Seal Agent Judge and a party of natives, were transported to Unalaska. They were brought to trial, at which the commanding officer of the fleet acted as prosecutor, were convicted, and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. Transportation was afforded to Prof. George A. Clark, agent of the Bureau of Fisheries, from Nome to the Pribilof Islands, and also between St. Paul and St. George Islands. Upon the completion of his work he was conveyed from St. Paul Island to Unalaska, whence he took a steamer for San Francisco, Cal. At various times during the season transportation was afforded to the agents of the Bureau of Fisheries between the Pribilofs, and a number of natives were conveyed from the Pribilofs to Unalaska and return at the request of the seal agents.

The Federal grand jury at Valdez took up the case of the 17 Japanese sealers of the schooner *Tenyu Maru* on October 4, and the same day indicted them for killing fur seals within the territorial waters of the United States. The trial was held on October 11, but I have not been informed as to the result.

Respectfully,

W. V. E. JACOBS,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Patrol Fleet.

DECEMBER 28, 1909.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In order to answer repeated requests for information as to the cost to the Government of the seal islands of Alaska during the period from 1890 to the present date, including the cost of administration and patrol, I have the honor to request that I be informed of the number of revenue cutters actually on patrol about these islands each year since the year 1890.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 22, 1910.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In reply to your communication of the 28th ultimo asking to be advised as to the number of revenue cutters actually on patrol duty about the seal islands of Alaska each year since 1890, I have the honor to state that the records of this department show the following number of vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service to have performed such service during the years stated:

1890	2	1900	1
1891	3	1901	2
1892	3	1902	1
1893	2	1903	2
1894	3	1904	2
1895	5	1905	2
1896	6	1906	2
1897	4	1907	4
1898	(1)	1908	4
1899	3	1909	4

It should be borne in mind that all of these vessels were not exclusively engaged on patrol duty about the seal islands, as some of them performed various other duties in Alaskan waters; and it is hardly practicable, therefore, to separate the work.

Respectfully,

C. D. NORTON,
Acting Secretary.

PART III. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO ADVISORY BOARD, FUR-SEAL SERVICE.

JANUARY 15, 1909.

Dr. DAVID STARR JORDAN,
Stanford University, California.

SIR: For administrative purposes I have recently transferred the Fur-Seal Service to the Bureau of Fisheries of this department.

It is my desire that this service be put upon the most rational basis possible and that it be administered with intelligence and the highest degree of efficiency. To this end the details of office administration have been placed with a Fur-Seal Board in the Bureau of Fisheries, consisting of Dr. Barton W. Evermann, chairman, Mr. Walter I. Lembkey, Mr. M. C. Marsh, Mr. James Judge, and Mr. A. B. Alexander.

This board will, under the general direction of the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, have immediate charge of all matters of administration and office routine. Many of the problems with which it will have to deal are of great importance, and their proper handling is essential to the rehabilitation and preservation of the fur-seal herd and the blue foxes of the Pribilof Islands.

The department wishes to avail itself as fully as may be of the expert knowledge possessed by the distinguished naturalists who

[1] No vessels were sent to the Bering Sea in 1898, they being required for service in connection with the Spanish War.

have represented the United States Government on fur-seal commissions in the past or who have, through official visits to the seal islands, become familiar with the conditions obtaining there. I have, therefore, decided to appoint a board to be known as the advisory board, fur-seal service, to consist of Dr. David Starr Jordan, chairman, Dr. Leonard Stejneger, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Hon. Edwin W. Sims, Mr. Frederick A. Lucas, and Mr. Charles H. Townsend.

The members of this board, and the board as a whole whenever opportunity permits or necessity requires, will be consulted from time to time as important questions arise. It is not thought that frequent meetings of the entire board will be necessary, but I should like to call the members together if it should ever seem desirable to do so.

Your well-known interest in the scientific and economic problems involved justifies the hope that you will be willing to accept membership on this board, and I shall be pleased to hear from you regarding the matter.

Upon receipt of information that you will be able to serve on such a board, a formal appointment will be sent you.

Very respectfully,

OSCAR S. STRAUS, *Secretary.*

FEBRUARY 6, 1909.

SIR: In transmitting your formal appointment as chairman of the advisory board, fur-seal service, I wish to express my gratification at your willingness to place at the service of this department your knowledge and experience, for which it is regretted no compensation can be offered. With the advice and counsel of yourself and your colleagues, it is felt that the fur-seal service as at present organized will be conducted as satisfactorily as existing conditions permit.

Among the problems which must receive early attention are the renewal of the lease of the North American Commercial Co., which will expire April 30, 1910, and the subject of pelagic sealing, and your views on these questions are requested, as well as recommendations as to what investigations or studies, natural history or otherwise, should be undertaken relative to the seals, foxes, and other animals of the Pribilof Islands.

The fur-seal service is now definitely placed under the Bureau of Fisheries, and all correspondence relative thereto may be addressed to the commissioner.

Very respectfully,

OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

Dr. DAVID STARR JORDAN,
Stanford University, Cal.

FEBRUARY 6, 1909.

SIR: You are hereby appointed chairman of the advisory board, fur-seal service, as indicated in my letter of January 15. The other members of this board are: Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.; Dr. C. Hart Merriam, United

States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.; Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.; Mr. C. H. Townsend, Director New York Aquarium, Battery Park, New York City; Mr. F. A. Lucas, Brooklyn Institute Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Hon. Edwin W. Sims, United States District Attorney's Office, Chicago, Ill.

Very respectfully,

OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

DR. DAVID STARR JORDAN,
Stanford University, Cal.

NOTE.—Similar letters of even date with the foregoing were addressed to Dr. C. Hart Merriam, United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.; Hon. Frank H. Hitchcock, now Postmaster General; Hon. Edwin W. Sims, United States District Attorney, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. F. A. Lucas, Brooklyn Institute Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. C. H. Townsend, director New York Aquarium, New York.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CAL.,
February 13, 1909.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Permit me to acknowledge your kind letter of February 6, together with the notice of my official appointment as chairman of the advisory board of the fur-seal service. It will be a great pleasure to me to give the department and the Commissioner of Fisheries all possible aid in this matter.

I may repeat here my hope that the Department of State will proceed as rapidly as possible toward the abolition of pelagic sealing, and my hope also that the Government will not under any circumstances lease the products of the islands, at least in such form as has been in vogue for the past 40 years. I think that the Government should, under the direction of its own naturalists, take the skins that can be spared and sell these to the highest bidder.

Very truly, yours,

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, November 24, 1909.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the recommendations of the advisory board, fur-seal service, made at its meeting at this bureau on the 23d instant.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

(Inclosure.)
(Also inclosed find report W. I. Lembkey.[1]—B.)

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[1] See Part I, Instructions to agents and agents' reports; letter dated September 20, 1909.

Recommendations—Advisory Board Fur-Seal Service.

Recommendations agreed on by the advisory board fur-seal service (Dr. David Starr Jordan, chairman, Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, Dr. Frederick A. Lucas, Mr. Edwin A. Sims, and Dr. Charles H. Townsend), in conference with the fur-seal board (Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, chairman, Mr. Walter I. Lembkey, and Mr. Millard C. Marsh), the Commissioner of Fisheries (Hon. Geo. M. Bowers), the Deputy Commissioner of Fisheries (Dr. Hugh M. Smith), assistant fur-seal agent, H. D. Chichester, and special scientific expert, Mr. George A. Clark, at a meeting held at the Bureau of Fisheries, November 23, 1909, all the above-mentioned persons being present, and the action on each recommendation being unanimous.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. It is recommended that the agent in charge, fur-seal service, shall, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, have full power to limit or restrict the killing of fur seals and blue foxes on the Pribilof Islands to any extent necessary and that no specified quota be indicated in the lease.

2. It is recommended that, for the present, no fur-seal skin weighing more than 8½ pounds or less than 5 pounds shall be taken, and that not more than 95 per cent of the 3-year-old male seals be killed in any one year.

3. It is recommended that there be adopted a system of regulations similar to those in force on the Commander Islands, the Government to assume entire control in all essential matters pertaining to the fur seals, blue foxes, natives, and the islands in general, and the lessee to be restricted to the receiving, curing, and shipping of the skins taken.

4. It is recommended that there shall be added to the personnel of the fur-seal service a chief naturalist, who shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the investigation, study, and management of the fur-seal herd, the blue foxes, and of all other life on the islands, and who shall give advice to the agent in charge regarding the number of seals and foxes to be killed each season. The chief naturalist should be a man of recognized standing and experience, and his salary should be not less than $3,000.

It is also recommended that there be at least one assistant naturalist, whose salary should be not less than $1,800.

5. It is recommended that the agent in charge shall have control of all administrative matters, and in case of a difference of opinion between the chief naturalist and the agent in charge, the decision of the latter shall govern, pending an appeal to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

6. It is recommended that there be arranged a conference of scientific men and diplomats of Great Britain, Canada, Japan, Russia, and the United States, for consideration of the question of pelagic sealing, as well as of an international game law to protect whales, walrus, sea otter and other mammals of the sea, the agreement reached by these nations to be submitted to the other maritime nations for their concurrence.

In addition to the above, the conference unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That we thoroughly approve of the sentiments set forth in the letter of the Commissioner of Fisheries, dated November 17, 1909, addressed to the honorable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, in which was urged the necessity of early action which will result in the stopping of pelagic sealing.

Part IV. Special Reports—Report of George A. Clark.

[Memorandum.]

The thing of most importance to be done in connection with the care of the fur-seal herd during the coming season is to obtain a definite idea of its present condition as compared with its condition in 1896–97. To make this comparison would require a duplication, under as nearly identical conditions as possible, of the important enumerations and observations of the commission of 1896–97. This work should, if possible, be done under the direction of some member of the former commission thoroughly familiar with the methods and results of that investigation. The work should be actively participated in by some member of the naturalist staff to have future charge of the herd, A connection would thus be established with the work of 1896–97, which would make it serve as a foundation on which the future work can rest.

The main elements of the comparative investigation above suggested would be as follows:

1. The census of the breeding herd: This would require a careful count of all the harems on all the rookeries between the 10th and 20th of July, with a count at the same time of the breeding females on certain rookery portions counted in 1895, 1896, and 1897, the latter count giving an average harem, which may be applied to the full harem count.

2. A count of live pups: This should cover the areas on which the count of breeding females is made. It affords the necessary correction for absent cows and gives the final average size of harem to be used in computing the actual number of breeding females and pups. This count should be made August 1 to 10.

This count of live pups for the seasons of 1896 and 1897 was recognized as giving a definite measure of the rate of decline between the two seasons. The duplication of these counts in 1909 would give a measure of the decline in the interval since 1897.

3. A count of idle bulls, half bulls, and large and small seals released on the killing fields: This would give an estimate of the reserve of male life available for the breeding herd.

4. A count or estimate of the virgin females: This, together with the estimate of young males rejected at the killings, would give an estimate of the numbers of young seals and thus complete the estimate for the entire herd.

5. A count of the dead pups on all the breeding grounds between August 1 and 10: This would furnish a comparative estimate of the work of the parasitic worm *uncinaria*. Observations during the earlier work of the investigation on the work of this worm should also be made and specimens secured for further study.

6. Photographs and maps: Photographs of certain typical breeding grounds should be duplicated, and the rookery margins should be observed and marked on the maps in the light of the monuments erected by the Coast and Geodetic Survey of 1897.

7. Miscellaneous: In general, observations of every kind made in 1896–97 and others which new conditions may suggest tending to throw light on the condition of the herd should be made.

In carrying out the above proposed work of investigation the best person to undertake it is Mr. George A. Clark, secretary of the commission of 1896–97, who, together with Mr. Hacoun of the British commission, made most of the enumerations for the commission, his observations covering the entire season, beginning with the arrival of the first cows on June 5, and extending to October 22, practically the end of the stay of the seals at the islands.

I would therefore strongly recommend that provision be made for sending Mr. Clark to the Pribilof Islands during the coming season with ample assistance and authority to carry out the work of investigation along lines identical with those of 1896–97, the services of a revenue cutter being made available to him for a week, covering July 12 to 15, and for a second week covering August 5 to 10, to enable him to get from one island to the other at the time of making the counts. He would wish to reach the islands as early as July 8 to 10, and would be ready to leave by the 10th to the 15th of August. The revenue cutter taking him to the islands could, by remaining over a day or two on the going trip and reaching the islands a few days in advance of the time of leaving, accomplish the work needed.

[Comment on memorandum of Dr. David Starr Jordan, re care of the fur-seal herd during the season of 1909.]

Dr. Jordan asserts that—

> The thing of most importance to be done in connection with the care of the fur-seal herd the coming season is to obtain a definite idea of its present condition as compared with its condition in 1896–97.

Dr. Jordan must be understood as dealing with the wants of the fur-seal herd from a biological standpoint only. With due respect to his great ability in biological work, it is submitted that the abolishment of pelagic sealing is, at the present time, the thing of primary importance in connection with the care of the fur-seal herd.

Dr. Jordan specifically recommends—

> (1) * * * a careful count of all harems on all the rookeries between the 10th and 20th of July, with a count at the same time of the breeding females on certain rookery portions counted in 1895, 1896, and 1897. * * *

To this there is no valid objection so far as the work on the islands is concerned. The counting of harems can be made in such manner that but few cows, bachelors, or half bulls will go into the water, and thereby become game for the Japanese hunter. With the greatest care in making the harem enumerations some cows on certain rookeries will go into the water, but as these are generally pregnant, or new mothers, necessity will compel them, with few exceptions, to return shortly to land, thus reducing the likelihood of their falling into the hands of the Japanese. Nevertheless, it is worthy of note in this connection that on one day, about this season,

to wit, July 21, 1908, one boat crew of the pelagic hunters killed 11 seals off Northeast Point (testimony of H. Webb, sealer on *Kinsei Maru*, Valdez, Alaska, October term, 1908).

The count of breeding females upon the rookery portions counted in 1895, 1896, and 1897 can be accomplished without driving any of those cows into the water, the formation of those rookeries being such that the work can be done with impunity.

(2) A count of live pups: This should cover the areas on which the count of breeding females is made. * * * This count should be made between August 1 and 10.

Any count of live pups between August 1 and 10 is likely to play into the hands of the pelagic sealers and work great injury to the herd. No count of pups worthy the name can be made without those making the count and their assistants, several men in all, spending a good part of each day for several days on the breeding grounds and either driving or frightening off nearly all mature seals on the rookeries counted. At that season nearly all females have given birth, and the period of heat has passed, and mother seals driven off do not return promptly, and as the Japanese are hovering off the coast at about 3 miles distant many seals would fall a prey to the hunters which, were the date earlier, would escape.

The pelagic sealers understand the benefit to be derived by them from a disturbance of the seals on their breeding grounds. It was their custom last summer when the cutters were absent from Northeast Point to advance with boats in a cordon to within a safe distance from shore and then begin a fusillade with shotguns for the purpose of alarming the seals and causing them to go into the water. They then withdrew to outside the 3-mile limit and waited. Our diminished catch of bachelor seals at the point shows that their ruse was successful. Indeed, their fusillades have had the effect to change considerably, at least for the time being, the habitat of the seals on the Northeast Point rookeries, some of which have gone to St. George Island, where the catch has become proportionately greater than formerly, and some to the Reef and other St. Paul rookeries, where like proportionate increase is observed. We know from the shortage of seals reserved for breeding purposes that the bachelors suffer largely on their way to St. George or the Reef, and we must conclude that the cows suffer still more by reason of their predominant numbers, also from the fact that as they need return only to nurse their young they may defer coming back for several days, meanwhile subject to great slaughter. It is to be noted in this connection that abnormal conditions are found on North rookery of St. George and Kitovi of St. Paul. Actual counts of pups for two years past show both these rookeries practically at a standstill in numbers; but when we consider that the most withering depletion of the whole herd is going on through the Japanese hunters, the conclusion is inevitable that the females as well as the males are migrating from Northeast Point to escape the attacks.

These two rookeries were counted as a basis of an average harem; but since their population is unstable it is evident that no correct basis is afforded.

On a single day in the summer of 1907, 26 Japanese sealing schooners carrying not fewer than 150 small boats were observed cruising off the rookeries of St. Paul Island. This array of enemies to the seal

life formed a line commanding practically every foot of the sea for several miles out from the island. What chance would there be for the escape of seals driven into such a network of greedy and alert enemies?

The redeeming feature of the proposed counting of live pups lies in the fact that few rookeries would be counted and none of these large ones.

(3) A count of idle bulls, half bulls, and large and small seals released on the killing fields.

This is done every year, and so long as any seals are dismissed from the killing fields they can be counted and classified without hazard. Among the animals dismissed from the killing grounds are many of the bachelors that have been branded and reserved for breeding purposes, and, as before indicated, many of these meet their fate at the hands of the Japanese.

(4) A count or estimate of the virgin females.

It is not presumed that Dr. Jordan means an actual enumeration of all virgin seals. Estimating in the way adopted by the Jordan commission and practiced ever since can have no detrimental effect.

(5) A count of dead pups on all breeding grounds beteween August 1 and 10.

The objection urged against the counting of live pups would apply with greatly increased force to the counting of dead ones at that season. In the former case only certain small rookeries would be disturbed, while in the latter nearly every seal on the islands would be driven into the water, all within a few days. This would accomplish in a wholesale manner the very thing which the Japanese effect on a smaller scale by coming near the rookeries and with their gunfire stampeding the seals into the water and then shooting them.

Such counting would make those doing the work effective allies of the Japanese in their nefarious operations.

It is further submitted that the object of the count of dead pups, viz, that it "would furnish a comparative estimate of the work of the parasitic worm *uncinaria*," would not be achieved.

In former years pelagic sealing did not begin until August 1, and pups dying prior to August 15 could not, of course, be attributed to that agency.

At the present time pelagic sealing begins in June, and pups dying as a result thereof before the middle of August might be confused easily with those dying of *uncinaria*. An examination of every dead pup found would be necessary to determine the cause of death, and that would be impracticable.

(6) Photographs and maps: Photographs of certain typical breeding grounds should be duplicated and the rookery margins should be observed and marked on the maps in the light of the monuments erected by the Coast and Geodetic Survey of 1897.

There is no objection to the taking of photographs or performing work upon maps. This can be done without disturbing the seals at all.

(7) Miscellaneous: In general, observations of every kind made in 1896–97 and others which new conditions may suggest tending to throw light on the condition of the herd should be made.

The making of any observations which do not involve driving or frightening the seals off the rookeries during the period in which pelagic sealing is carried on would of course be readily sanctioned.

While the intention of this memorandum is to obtain these counts for the purpose of making comparisons with similar counts made in 1897, it is worthy of note that counts such as those desired were made annually from 1897 until 1906 on all the rookeries enumerated by the commission, and from 1900 including many other rookeries not counted by the commission.

For the five years ended with 1905 about one-third of all pups born on St. Paul and all born on St. George were counted. This was largely in excess of the rookery space counted by the commission.

It is here observed that in 1903–4 Mr. F. H. Hitchcock made an exhaustive examination (1) into the work of enumerating the seals, (2) the supply of virile male life for the work of propagation, and (3) of the biological conditions generally prevailing in the herd. For the purposes of his inquiry all the scientific men who in recent years had made investigations of the seal life were advised with and their opinions obtained. With all the facts before him he devised new regulations governing the work on the islands. These regulations are now in operation, save as modified in certain particulars owing to the incursion of Japanese pelagic sealers.

In 1906, immediately after harems were counted, Japanese schooners became very numerous about the islands, and Mr. Solicitor Sims, then present, forbade all counting which necessitated the driving or frightening of seals from the rookeries. For the last two years harems have been counted on all rookeries of both islands, but pups on Kitovi only of St. Paul and North of St. George.

The average harem found as a result of these counts of Kitovi and North rookeries was, as herein indicated, abnormal, and consequently the regular annual census of breeding seals has been omitted in recent years.

Respectfully submitted.

_____ _____,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

Dr. BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Chairman Fur-Seal Board.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 7, 1909.

Mr. GEORGE A. CLARK,
Stanford University, Cal.

SIR: You are hereby appointed a temporary assistant in the Bureau of Fisheries for a period not exceeding three months, beginning June 15, 1909, at a salary of $250 per month, payable from the appropriation, "Statistics and methods of the fisheries."

You are directed to go to the Pribilof Islands on or about June 15 for the purpose of making a census of the seal herd in accordance with detailed instructions which will be sent you.

Your expenses while engaged in the work will be refunded to you upon presentation of proper vouchers. The bureau will endeavor to

arrange with the Revenue-Cutter Service for special transportation to and from the islands and for the necessary travel between points on the islands.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Approved.

CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 13, 1909.

GEORGE A. CLARK,
Stanford University, Cal.:

Your appointment and orders to go to Alaska about June 15 mailed to-day.

BOWERS.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CAL., *May 19, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Your telegram of May 13 and letter dated May 7, informing me of my appointment as temporary assistant in the Bureau of Fisheries and directing me to go to the Pribilof Islands on or about June 15 for the purpose of making a census of the seal herd, detailed instructions to follow, are duly received. I accept this appointment and shall give the work my best effort and attention.

Respectfully, yours,

GEORGE A. CLARK.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 15, 1909.

Mr. GEO. A. CLARK,
Stanford University, Cal.

SIR: The recommendation of the advisory board, fur-seal service, that you be sent to the seal islands to make certain studies of the fur seals this season, has been approved and your formal appointment has been sent you. It is important that certain observations and investigations made by the fur-seal commission of 1896–97 be repeated in order that a comparative estimate be made of the condition of the herd at the present time as related to the conditions obtaining in 1896–97. The main elements of the comparative investigation would include the following: A census of the breeding herd; a count of the live pups on certain areas; a count of idle bulls, half bulls, etc.; a count or estimate of the virgin females; a count of dead pups, etc.

Your intimate acquaintance with the problems involved, gained through active participation in all the work of 1896–97, will enable

you to determine the scope and details of the observations to be made this year, and these are left to your judgment. You are authorized to confer with the chairman of the advisory board and to conduct the investigations in a manner which will result in the securing of the desired data, always bearing in mind, however, that no unnecessary disturbance of the rookeries must be permitted. Chief Agent Mr. Lembkey has been instructed to cooperate with you and to furnish you every facility to enable you to accomplish the end desired.

Upon your return from the islands you will prepare a detailed report embodying the results of your observations and your recommendations based thereon.

For your information there are inclosed herewith copies of three letters of instructions to Chief Agent Lembkey and his assistants, one pertaining to sanitary, health, and other scientific studies which it is desired to be made, one concerning the study and care of the birds, and one concerning the systematizing of the records of the islands. If time permits you to do so, I shall be glad if you will give consideration to these various matters and offer any suggestions thereon that occur to you as a result of your observations.

A copy of this letter is sent to Chief Agent Lembkey.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CAL., *May 20, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have gone over to-day the possibilities of transportation. The Pacific Coast Steamship Co. has a vessel leaving Seattle for Nome on June 26; the Alaska Steamship Co. one on June 21. The latter vessel is the one I should take. The companies will not, however, say that they will touch at Dutch Harbor, and as I do not know regarding the movements of the patrol cutters I do not know whether this is important or not. It seems to me that a cutter which could be detailed to get me at Dutch Harbor could pick up this vessel—the *Victoria*—at or above the Unimak Pass and bring me to the Pribilof Islands. The vessel's route passes near them. Or if such cutter is to be in the vicinity of the islands at the time it would not be much farther to pick me up at Nome, which port the *Victoria* reaches on June 29. I should like to get to the islands about the 5th and not later than the 8th of July. The North American Commercial Co. steamer *Homer* will return from the islands about the 15th of August, which would be satisfactory for the return trip.

Very truly, yours,

GEORGE A. CLARK.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CAL., *May 21, 1909.*

Dr. B. W. EVERMANN,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR DR. EVERMANN: I ought to go up on the Alaska Steamship Co.'s steamer *Victoria*, which sails from Seattle on June 21. The agents here, however, will not give any hope that this vessel would

touch at Dutch Harbor. In my correspondence earlier in the season they seemed to think it was very likely that the June steamers would let a passenger off there. With Dr. Jordan's leaving for the East and all, I could not possibly have got ready to go up on the *Homer*, which sails to-day. Furthermore, it would have been a sheer waste of time, as I can not think of a single important thing I could do until about July 5. In talking with Mr. Judge yesterday he told me that the cutters were accustomed last season to make frequent trips to Nome. The *Victoria* gets there on the 29th of June. It is farther to Nome than Dutch Harbor, but I hope it will be possible to arrange to have a cutter meet this vessel at that port and bring me to the Pribilofs. One of the vessels should have such instructions as will permit it to keep close about the islands in the period between July 10 and 18 and again between the 5th and 10th of August.

With Dr. Jordan's approval, I telegraphed the commissioner yesterday about the sailing. I have in this morning's mail received the detailed instructions.

Very truly, yours, GEORGE A. CLARK.

[Telegram.]

PALO ALTO, CAL., *May 21, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Should sail Alaska, steamship *Victoria*, Seattle, June 21. Does not stop Unalaska. Suggest cutter be at Nome 29th, taking me to Pribilofs. Return company steamer August 15.

GEO. A. CLARK.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 22, 1909.

GEORGE A. CLARK,
Stanford University, Cal.:

Is no other vessel available for Unalaska or Dutch Harbor about time required? Inquire and wire.

BOWERS.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CAL., *May 22* [*3*], *1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: The detailed instructions have duly arrived.

In answer to your telegram of yesterday I have wired to-day that I could reach Unalaska on July 10 by the mail boat *Dora*, leaving Valdez or Seward about July 2. To get this boat I should have to leave Seattle on June 24. This trip is a long and tedious one unless there should be some object in visiting all these settlements along the Alaskan Peninsula. The date of getting to Unalaska is so late as to leave no margin for delay there. If a cutter could meet the mail boat on the 10th and take me promptly to the islands, giving me two days at St. George and then landing me on St. Paul, this would suit my

work very well. Delay at Unalaska would be serious. By the Nome route, where I should arrive June 29, there would be at least 10 days of leeway. Its feasibility would, however, depend on the movements of the cutters, and of this I can get no definite results here. Mr. Judge and Mr. Redpath told me that the cutters made frequent trips last season to Nome and both thought this plan not merely feasible, but the best in every way.

Very truly, yours, GEORGE A. CLARK.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 2, 1909.

Mr. GEORGE A. CLARK,
Stanford University, Cal.

SIR: Your letters of May 19, 21, and 22 have been received. The bureau has communicated with the Treasury Department in reference to your transportation, and you will find inclosed herewith a copy of the reply from the Secretary of the Treasury. The office assumes that the transportation requested will be furnished, and you are directed to proceed on that assumption.

Respectfully, H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

[Telegram.]

PALO ALTO, CAL., *May 23.*

Hon. GEO. M. BOWERS,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Mail boat *Dora* from Seward July 2, arriving Unalaska 10th, reached from Seattle June 24. Satisfactory if certain of cutter immediately for islands. Delay there serious.

GEO. A. CLARK.

LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY,
Stanford University, Cal., June 9, 1909.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Dr. Smith's letter of the 2d instant and the copy of the letter of the Treasury Department of May 27 to the effect that transportation will be furnished from Nome, are at hand, and I will accordingly sail from Seattle on the *Victoria*, sailing June 21. I assume that the understanding with the Treasury Department is general enough to enable me to have the services of a cutter in getting between St. Paul Island and St. George about the 15th of July. After making the counts of certain rookeries on St. Paul, I shall wish to visit St. George for a day and return to St. Paul. Mail can reach me at Seattle, care of the Alaska Steamship Co., as late as the morning of June 21.

Respectfully, yours, GEORGE A. CLARK,
Assistant.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 18, 1909.

Mr. GEO. A. CLARK,
Assistant Alaska Seal Agent,
Care of Alaska Steamship Co.,
Seattle, Wash.

SIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 9th instant, stating that you will sail from Seattle June 21 on the Alaska Steamship Co.'s steamer *Victoria* for Nome.

The Revenue-Cutter Service will pick you up at that place and take you to the islands. Arrangements have also been made with the Revenue-Cutter Service to take you from St. George to St. Paul on or about July 3; to return you to St. George on July 17 or 18, and return you to St. Paul on July 19 or 20; to cruise about St. Paul Island, keeping in close touch with the islands during the count of pups August 5 to 10, and to take you to Dutch Harbor on about August 11.

The bureau has every reason to believe that the Revenue-Cutter Service will be able to render this service as desired.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

[Telegram.]

SEATTLE, WASH., *June 28, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
United States Fisheries Bureau, Washington, D. C.:

Victoria delayed; sails 9 to-morrow night. Have Treasury Department wire me here authority to requisition Capt. Jacobs, Unalaska, by wireless, for cutter to take me off Unimak Pass.

GEORGE A. CLARK.

JUNE 29, 1909.

Mr. GEORGE A. CLARK,
Care of Steamer "Victoria," Seattle, Wash.:

Secretary Treasury requested to wire you authority to ask Jacobs to take you off at Unimak Pass.

BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

APPROACHING NOME, *July 8, 1909.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I received the telegram from the Treasury Department and your own message, the latter after going on the boat at Seattle, and hence I have not been able to acknowledge it.

We were unable to reach any of the cutters before getting into the Pass and then our reply was that the *Rush* was waiting at Nome. So I am expecting to get off promptly and will be in good time at St. Paul.

As we feared, the ice about this part of Bering Sea is very troublesome this year. The *Victoria* has been virtually lost in it since 10 yesterday. The cutters will doubtless handle it more easily.

Respectfully, yours,

GEORGE A. CLARK,
Assistant.

THE RAINIER GRAND HOTEL,
Seattle, June 28, 1909.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: The situation with regard to the sailing of steamers for Alaska has proven very disappointing. They were all late in returning from their first trips, but the *Victoria*, which got in on the 21st, was promised out by Thursday, 24th, till after the mail boat sailed, and then the date was advanced to Saturday, the 26th. The *Senator*, scheduled for the 26th (Pacific Coast Steamship Co.), was taken off and her freight and passengers joined with those of the *Victoria*. Her date was then advanced to Sunday evening, the 27th, and finally to the 29th, when she will probably get off. The fact is that business to Nome has fallen slack.

Yesterday there was considerable news in the papers regarding the cutters—that the *Thetis* had been caught in the ice and carried into the Arctic with probability that she would not get back to Nome till the end of July; that the *Bear* was looking after a wreck near Kadiak; that the *Rush* was taking certain stranded Russian scientists to Attu; that the *Manning* was left to guard the islands, in the vicinity of which two Japanese cruisers were expected; that a Japanese vessel had been caught sealing in Sitka Harbor, etc.

In talking the situation over with Capt. Tuttle, formerly of the Revenue-Cutter Service, he was strongly of the opinion that it would be best to have one of the cutters meet the *Victoria* at or above Unimak Pass and take me off, thus avoiding the trip to Nome. The *Victoria* carries wireless with a range of 700 miles. He suggested trying to communicate with Capt. Jacobs through one of the vessels carrying wireless that might be in Unalaska as soon as we are within reach, asking that a cutter meet the *Victoria*.

Capt. Tuttle thought that it would be best for me to telegraph for authority to ask for this vessel, which could be quoted in a message to Capt. Jacobs, in command of the patrol fleet. It was on his advice that I telegraphed you to-night.

I realize that the arrangements already made may be entirely adequate to cover the matter, but they were made without knowledge of this delay, which I regret exceedingly. I am anxious now that it should not be necessary, if it can be avoided, for a vessel to go all the way to Nome for me. Had the steamship company been frank and direct in their information, I should have gone on the mail boat, which would in due time have brought me to Dutch Harbor. As it is now, the *Victoria* should reach the Unimak Pass about July 5, and if I can get a cutter there I shall get to the islands in good time yet.

Respectfully, yours, GEORGE A. CLARK.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, August 31, 1909.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to advise you that this bureau is in receipt of a letter dated August 15, 1909, from Mr. George A. Clark, who, as special assistant, was detailed this year to make a count of the fur seals on the rookeries of the Pribilof Islands. Mr. Clark took a similar census in 1897, and the results of this season's work afford a valuable comparative basis for ascertaining the status and prospects of the fur-seal herd. In view of the very serious conditions disclosed by this investigation it is deemed advisable to acquaint the department at once with the contents of this letter, so that any action that seems expedient may be taken without waiting for the final report.

The following quotations comprise the substance of Mr. Clark's letter:

The essential features of the situation are:

(1) That the herd is reduced to about one-third what it was in 1896–97—50,000 breeding females, a like number of pups, and sufficient animals of other classes to bring the entire herd up to approximately 140,000.

The individual rookeries show exceptional conditions. Notable is the case of the Northeast Point rookeries. From a total of 1,143 harems in 1897 these have fallen in 1909 to 232 harems—about one-fifth. This has been due to the concentration in the season of 1908 of the Japanese pelagic fleet off these rookeries.

(2) There is a vigorous and adequate supply of male life for breeding purposes. For the total of active harem bulls of 1,387 there are 513 idle and young bulls ready for harem duty. A reservation of 2,000 three and four year old bachelors for this season guarantees a sufficiency, if not an overstocking of the breeding grounds with males three to five years hence.

(3) The quota of killable seals is short 675 or thereabouts of the quota of 15,000. It would have been much shorter still if the same grade of skins were taken as in 1896–97. With a herd approaching one-third its former size a quota three-fourths as great—the quota of 1897 was 20,000—could not reasonably have been expected. The smaller seals taken to make up the number secured are, however, well out of the way of the Japanese sealers.

(4) The Japanese sealing is terribly destructive, being at such close range. Every seal leaving the islands to feed must run the gauntlet of the boats just off the 3-mile limit both going out and returning, and the reports of guns on a still day are incessant. The natural result of this shooting must be felt in the loss of many animals in excess of those actually secured.

The count of pups on certain St. Paul rookeries showed on August 3 fully 6½ per cent of the pups dead or dying of starvation. This was the result of sealing in July. A like mortality will result from the sealing in August, bringing the full loss to something like 12 per cent for the season.

It is respectfully suggested that this matter be brought to the attention of the Department of State, with a view to the renewal of efforts for an international agreement, particularly with Japan, for the suppression of pelagic sealing. The shrinkage of two-thirds in the size of the fur-seal herd in 12 years; the reduction of four-fifths in the size of some of the rookeries as a direct result of the operations of the Japanese sealers last year; and the loss in 1909 of about 6,000 young seals by starvation, because of the killing of their mothers by Japanese hunters, would appear to warrant the most active and determined measures on the part of our Government to ameliorate conditions on the seal islands.

Very respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

DUTCH HARBOR,
August 15, 1909.

DEAR DR. EVERMANN: I finished my work on the islands and after a cruise among the pelagic sealers I am in Dutch Harbor waiting for the *Homer* and getting the hard work of my report done so that it may not be delayed by the many interruptions which I know will await my return.

I am sending Commissioner Bowers a brief statement which, with this, should come to Seattle by the cutter *Tahoma* about the 23d, and hence reach you about the time I get to San Francisco—27th. It will be better than a telegraphic word which I had expected to send. The *Tahoma* has reached here from Japan via Attu on her trip about the globe.

The situation at the islands is briefly that the herd is about one-third its size of 1896–97; the remnant is, however, in good condition, and there is an entirely adequate supply of breeding males—1,387 harems and 50,000 cows, 500 idle and half bulls, 2,000 reserve of bachelors; the quota is short about 675; it was not reasonable to expect 15,000—the quota of 1897 was only 20,000; the condition left over next season is very like that of 1889 and 1890, at the conclusion of the A. C. Co. lease. Japanese sealing is much worse than Canadian; about 12 per cent of the pups of the season are dead from starvation or will die before the close of August. The incessant shooting at any and all animals crossing the 3-mile limit gives the feeding females no show. I have been unable to do anything with *uncinaria;* the seals have shrunk away from all the places of chief infection in 1896–97, and the sick pups from starvation in July overlapped and obscured sickness and death from any other cause to the extent that practically nothing could be done. The worm is probably not a factor of mortality now worth considering and will not be until the restoration of the herd to a condition where it will again occupy the infected regions.

I feel that I have had a very successful season. The agents have been very helpful and considerate and everything has been satisfactory except that the condition of the herd and the scourge of pelagic sealing which afflicts it are depressing in the extreme.

Cordially,

G. A. CLARK.

I ought to be able to get in my full report by the middle of September.

DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA,
August 15, 1909.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: The new revenue cutter *Tahoma*, which has just arrived from Japan via Attu, will take mail to Seattle and I am hoping to send this letter by her. It will serve better than a telegraphic report on my arrival in San Francisco.

I finished the work on the islands with the counting of live pups on August 5, and with a view to securing data regarding the palagic sealers I went for a cruise among them on the revenue cutter *Manning* and am now in Dutch Harbor awaiting the *Homer*. I shall be able to get the main work of my report done here and, making allowance for interruptions from my university work on my return, I ought still to be able to give you my full report by the middle of September.

The essential features of the situation are:

(1) That the herd is reduced to about one-third what it was in 1896–97—50,000 breeding females, a like number of pups and sufficient animals of other classes to bring the entire herd up to approximately 140,000.

The individual rookeries show exceptional conditions. Notable is the case of the Northeast Point rookeries. From a total of 1,143 harems in 1897, these have fallen in 1909 to 232 harems—to about one-fifth. This has been due to the concentration in the season of 1908 of the Japanese pelagic fleet off these rookeries.

(2) There is a vigorous and adequate supply of male life for breeding purposes. For the total of active harem bulls of 1,387 there are 513 idle and young bulls ready for harem duty. A reservation of 2,000 3 and 4 year old bachelors for this season guarantees a sufficiency, if not an overstocking, of the breeding grounds with males three to five years hence.

(3) The quota of killable seals is short 675 or thereabouts of the quota of 15,000. It would have been much shorter still if the same grade of skins were taken as in 1896–97. With a herd approaching one-third its former size a quota three-fourths as great—the quota of 1897 was 20,000—could not reasonably have been expected. The smaller seals taken to make up the number secured are, however, well out of the way of the Japanese sealers.

(4) The Japanese sealing is terribly destructive, being at such close range. Every seal leaving the islands to feed must run the gauntlet of the boats just off the 3-mile limit, both going out and returning, and the reports of the guns on a still day are incessant. The natural result of this shooting must be felt in the loss of many animals in excess of those actually secured.

The count of live pups on certain St. Paul rookeries showed on August 3 fully 6½ per cent of the pups dead or dying of starvation. This was the result of sealing in July. A like mortality will result from the sealing in August, bringing the full loss to something like 12 per cent for the season.

These and other matters will be elaborated in my report.

I am, respectfully, yours,

GEORGE A. CLARK,
Assistant.

LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY,
Stanford University, Cal., October 1, 1909.

Dr. B. W. EVERMANN,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR DR. EVERMANN: I have mailed to the commissioner this afternoon my report for the summer. I am sending you a duplicate copy for your personal use.

It has taken me longer to get this done than I expected because of interruptions due to absence from home for so long. The question of the equilibrium in the herd has also been troublesome. We considered this as a theoretical possibility in 1896–97, and it was insisted on by the British commissioners in the conference of experts. From a careful consideration of the whole matter it seems to me to be a fact that the herd has been virtually stationary since 1907.

I had a splendid summer, and I only hope that this report will be of assistance in securing some action on behalf of the fur-seal herd, which, equilibrium or no equilibrium, is to-day at the lowest point in its career and in great need of protection.

Cordially, yours,

GEORGE A. CLARK.

LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY,
Stanford University, Cal., October 1, 1909.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have mailed you this afternoon my report on the work of the past summer, which has taken me longer than I expected. I trust that it may be of service to the bureau.

Respectfully, yours,

GEORGE A. CLARK,
Assistant.

(Original report examined by commissioner Oct. 8. Turned over to Mr. Lembkey Oct. 9.)

REPORT ON CONDITION OF FUR-SEAL HERD, 1909.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my detailed report on the condition of the fur-seal herd on the Pribilof Islands, resulting from the investigations of the past summer in accordance with your instructions of May 15, 1909, as follows:

* * * It is important that certain observations and investigations made by the fur-seal commission of 1896–97 be repeated in order that a comparative estimate be made of the condition of the herd at the present time as related to the condition obtaining in 1896–97. The main elements of the comparative investigation would include the following: A census of the breeding herd; a count of live pups on certain areas: a count of idle bulls, half bulls, etc.; a count or estimate of the virgin females; a count of dead pups, etc. Your acquaintance with the problems involved, gained through your active participation in all the work of 1896–97, will enable you to determine the scope and details of the observations to be made this year, and these are left to your judgment. You are authorized to confer with the chairman of the advisory

board and to conduct the investigations in a manner which will result in the securing of the desired data, always bearing in mind, however, that no unnecessary disturbance of the rookeries must be permitted. * * * Upon your return from the islands you will prepare a detailed report embodying the results of your observations and your recommendations based thereon.

ITINERARY.

I left Palo Alto on June 16, expecting to sail from Seattle on the steamship *Victoria,* scheduled to leave that city for Nome on the 21st. This vessel—the only one available—was delayed from day to day for various causes until the 29th of June. I arrived in Nome on the afternoon of the 8th of July and was at once transferred by the revenue cutter *Rush,* Capt. D. F. A. de Otte commanding, to St. Paul Island, arriving on the afternoon of July 11. I was engaged in the work of observation on this island and the island of St. George until August 5, when I cruised on the *Manning* for four days on the southwest quadrant of the 60-mile zone, going with the vessel to Unalaska, at which place we arrived August 9. I returned direct to San Francisco on the steamship *Homer,* reaching that city on August 30.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

I am indebted to the Government agents on both islands for cordial and helpful assistance in my work and for important statistics of rookery conditions in past seasons. I am also under obligations to the representatives of the North American Commercial Co. for hospitality on both islands and at Dutch Harbor. The officers of the revenue-cutter fleet cheerfully rendered all necessary transportation, and the commander of the fleet, Capt. W. V. E. Jacobs, stationed at Unalaska, supplied me with valuable data regarding the operations of the pelagic-sealing fleet.

THE DIVISION OF THE WORK.

The subject can best be treated under the following general heads:

1. The breeding seals and young.
2. The nonbreeding seals.
3. The quota.
4. Mortality among the seals.
5. Pelagic sealing.
6. The patrol.
7. Rookery care and management.
8. The general fur-seal question.
9. Conclusions and recommendations.

I have appended to this report certain statistical tables which throw light on the situation and have included the detailed notes on my work as prepared from day to day.

THE BREEDING SEALS AND YOUNG.

Having in mind the caution contained in my instructions against "unnecessary disturbance," and aware from the first of a great sensitiveness on the part of the representatives of the lessees and of the Government agents also on this point, my first visit to each of the rookeries was made in company with one of the agents in order to

learn the present position of the hauling grounds and any points necessary for me to know in order that my work might be carried on with a minimum of disturbance. The counting of harems and close inspection of the rookeries were made immediately following drives and when there were no bachelor seals to be disturbed. The counting of pups was done in weather unfavorable to the work of the sealers and hence with least likelihood of harm to the cows driven off. It is believed that the work of the season interfered in no way with the taking of the quota by the lessees and in general wrought no appreciable harm to the breeding herd.

THE ROOKERIES.

The status of the breeding herd is shown by the condition of the breeding rookeries, and its continued decline is apparent in two ways—first, by shrinkage in the breeding areas themselves; and, second, by the results of actual counts of breeding families and individual seals. These two features may be brought out by a rapid survey of the several rookeries.

ST. PAUL ROOKERIES.

1. *Gorbatch.*—This rookery lies first to the south of the village, on Reef Peninsula. Its hauling ground in 1896–97 was on the hill slope above Zoltoi sands. No seal life appeared on this hauling ground in 1909. The breeding seals began in 1897 at Rock 26 of the survey of that season, and a large harem, which was made the subject of special study by Mr. Lucas of the commission of 1896–97, was located at Rock 25. There were no seals at this point in 1909. Two isolated harems occupied a position at Rock 23, a long break following to Rock 19. For the two harems under this cliff portion of Gorbatch in 1909 there were 14 in 1897. The rocky slope that extends from Rock 19 to the angle of the cinder slope consisted of a single line of harems this season. There were 18 harems here instead of the 85 found in 1896. There is a long break at the angle of the cinder slope, and through this the bachelors have established a new hauling ground. The cinder slope was practically free from idle bulls. A single line of harems scatter along its base. The rocky bench at the extreme end, conspicuous in 1896–97 because occupied by a single large harem of 150 cows, is vacant.

The general appearance of this breeding ground in the season of 1909 as compared with its condition 12 years ago is that of a skeleton or outline, the substance having gone. This general appearance was characteristic of the rookeries as a whole.

For the entire rookery of Gorbatch there were, in 1897, 308 harems or breeding families. In 1909 the number was 120.

2. *Ardiguen.*—This little breeding ground lies in a cove at the end of Reef Peninsula, set off by natural barriers from Gorbatch and from Reef. It was made the subject of special study in 1896 because of the advantages for observation without disturbance afforded by its overhanging cliffs. Eight harems containing 133 cows were present in the "slide" portion of this rookery which are wanting in 1909. The line of harems throughout the rookery's length is thin and scattered.

There were 470 cows in 33 harems here in 1897; 207 cows in 11 harems in 1909.

3. *Reef.*—The breeding ground holds close to the reef at the point. Each of its great masses are recognizable by a single or at most two or three moderate harems extending on the flat ground above the bowlder beach. The four principal breaks through which the bachelors hauled in 1896–97 have widened from a few yards each to hundreds of feet. Only two are used by bachelors this season. It was necessary in 1897 to count the massed portion of this rookery from the back and to count the bowlder beach in a boat off shore. The reduction of this rookery will be appreciated by those familiar with the conditions in 1896–97 when it is said that the bowlder beach could be seen in all places from the rear, the massed portions on the flat having disappeared. At the northern end of the rookery, in the direction of East Landing, is an abandoned section similar to that at the beginning of Gorbatch, this disappearance of ends of breeding grounds being characteristic of the rookeries generally.

Reef rookery had 454 harems in 1897; in 1909 it has 184.

4. *Sivutch.*—This rookery is situated on a small islet half a mile off Reef rookery. It has a hauling ground on the end toward the main island, but no killings can be made here in the breeding season. The rookery above shows less evidence of decline than the others seen. It is more difficult this season than in 1897 to reach the high ground from which a complete survey of the rookery can be obtained. It is probable that this breeding ground draws from Reef on account of its favorable location, directly in the course of seals coming to the Reef.

The count of harems gives 61 for 1909 as against 102 for 1897. As on Ardiguen there has evidently been a greater diminution in harems than in individual cows.

5. *Kitovi.*—The striking evidence of shrinkage on this rookery is in the absence of any seals to the south of Kitovi Point. In 1896 Dr. Stejneger and Mr. Lucas counted 14 harems and 243 cows on this section which has entirely disappeared. In the main portion of the rookery the harems are scattered along in a single line, with numerous breaks. The reduction in the space known as the "Amphitheater" is very conspicuous. It had 46 harems and 654 cows on July 13, 1897; it had 8 harems and 113 cows on the corresponding date in 1909.

For the entire rookery there are 55 harems in 1909, as against 179 in 1897.

6. *Lukanin.*—This rookery, in so far as it exists to-day, is located at the foot of Lukanin Hill. Even here it is confined to the beach at the base and does not extend up on the slope. There are no harems this season under the cliff portion and on the lower slope toward the cove and sand beach. It was from these cliffs that many of our observations in 1896–97 were made on the abundant seal life below them. The bachelors have abandoned the usual hauling ground above the cove and are hauling in close at the angle of the hill and to a position near its top. There were very few of them this season, in marked contrast to the plentiful drives of small seals obtained here in 1896–97, which gave to Lukanin the designation of the "nursery."

There were 139 harems on Lukanin in 1897; in 1909 there are 39 only.

7. *Polovina.*—The main part of Polovina in 1896–97 was composed of a huge mass of seals on a gradual slope, with a short abrupt beach at the foot and a reef, bare at low tide and when no surf was running. This mass has shrunk to a narrow fringe, the harems for the most part being confined to the bowlder beach and a portion of the reef.

There were 143 harems here in 1897; there are 42 in 1909.

8. *Polovina Cliffs.*—This portion of Polovina lies along the foot of abrupt cliffs and resembles portions of Kitovi. The beach is set with rough lava rocks and harems are divided into groups by projecting ledges. As usual in such breeding grounds, the shrinkage is shown at the ends and by breaks at intervals.

The 61 harems of 1897 are reduced to 23 in 1909.

9. *Little Polovina.*—This small breeding ground is in a compact mass located on a gradual slope. The area has contracted, but does not show decline in so marked a degree as the main rookery.

It has 19 harems this season as against 40 in 1897.

10. *Morjovi.*—This rookery lies along the east side of Northeast Point. The first striking feature about it is the absence this season of a considerable group of seals at a point opposite Webster House. Dr. Stejneger and Mr. Lucas counted here 967 cows in 87 harems in 1896. This entire body of seals is gone and the ground is vacant. So, also, is the south side of Sea Lion Neck, and there are only three harems on the north side. Twenty-five harems and 320 cows were counted on Sea Lion Neck in 1896. The neck has been abandoned by the sea lions and it is said that none have been here for the past nine years. The great mass of seals to the north of Walrus Bight is reduced to 15 harems in 1909.

For the whole of Morjovi there are 45 harems to-day, as against 233 in 1897.

11. *Vostochni.*—This is that portion of the breeding grounds of Northeast Point which lies to the west of the point, reaching in 1896–97 to the vicinity of Cross Hill. It was the largest and, because of the great mass of seals under Hutchinson Hill, the most striking of all the rookeries in 1896–97. The sight from this hill is still impressive, but only a shadow of what it was. The mass this season numbered 51 harems only and extended but very little into the broad flat at the foot of the hill. To the west of the hill the rookery occupies the beach at the foot of cliffs and, as is usual with this class of breeding areas, shows decline chiefly in a general thinning down and scattering. At the extreme southern end Dr. Stejneger and Mr. Lucas in 1896 counted three patches. Two of these patches, containing 47 and 104 harems, respectively, and an aggregate of 1,863 cows, have entirely disappeared, and the third patch of 73 harems is represented to-day only by a remnant of 11 harems. The cove in which the Japanese sealers killed the 200 cows in 1906 lies in the second of these patches and is devoid of seal life to-day.

For Vostochni rookery as a whole in 1897 there were 910 harems; in 1909 there are but 184.

The two sea-lion rookeries on the point still remain, with about the same number of animals as in 1896–97.

12. *Zapadni.*—The main portion of this rookery was a magnificent breeding ground in 1896–97, second only to Vostochni. It stretched from the cliffs at Zapadni Head to the sands of Southwest Bay,

spreading back in great masses on the level areas and shallow ravines rising from the shore. To-day the rookery is confined to the abrupt beach, with only a suggestion here and there of the former massed conditions, an occasional harem projecting on the flat ground. The ravines known by us in 1896 as "death traps," because of their crowded condition and the high mortality among the pups, are in 1909 abandoned and their grass-grown condition indicates that they have not been occupied for several years. A supplemental count for the rookery front of Zapadni had to be made in 1897 from a boat offshore; in 1909 it can be counted readily from the rear.

There were 458 harems here in 1897; this season the number is 147.

13. *Little Zapadni.*—This rookery is separated from the main part of Zapadni by the sand beach of Southwest Bay. It occupies a crescent-shaped rocky slope. There is only one line of harems on the beach and the rookery has shrunk at both ends.

Instead of 176 harems, as in 1897, Little Zapadni has now only 62.

14. *Zapadni Reef.*—This breeding ground occupies a long bowlder beach extending out from the foot of Little Zapadni. It has shrunk to a little group of harems on the widened point of the reef near English Bay.

Zapadni Reef had 3,041 cows in 114 harems in 1897; it has only 319 cows in 11 harems in 1909.

15. *Tolstoi.*—The mass of seals on the sand flat of Tolstoi, especially on account of the fighting among the bulls, was a striking sight in 1896. The shrinkage of this rookery is most vividly put by saying that in the height of the breeding season no seals whatever appeared on the sand flat. It was on this area, now vacant, that the heavy mortality among pups—1,495 deaths—from the parasite *uncinaria* occurred in 1896. This season the seals have been confined to the bowlder beach until August 1, when a heavy surf drove them up into the flat.

There were 295 harems on this rookery in 1897; in 1909 the number is 87.

16. *Tolstoi Cliffs.*—This breeding ground is shut off from the main rookery by a jutting ledge of rocks and it occupies a narrow beach throughout its length backed by abrupt cliffs. Like other similar breeding areas, it shows less evidence of decline in the number of individual cows than in the number of families. There are long breaks in the harem line, and one of these was occupied by the bachelors as a hauling ground.

In 1897 there were 1,286 cows here in 98 harems; in 1909 the number is reduced to 698 cows in 25 harems.

17. *Lagoon.*—This breeding ground is located on a rocky spit opposite the landing at St. Paul village. It is similarly situated to Zapadni Reef, and like Zapadni Reef rookery has practically disappeared.

The 115 harems of July 12, 1897, are reduced in 1909 to 12 harems.

ST. GEORGE ROOKERIES.

1. *Little East.*—This small breeding ground has been practically abandoned. It was a compact little body of seals, much like Little Polovina of St. Paul. In August, 1896, 1,350 pups were counted here. On July 9, 1897, there were 46 harems on it, a later count on July 15 of that year giving 48.

On July 15, 1909, this rookery had 4 harems and 71 cows.

2. *East.*—The reef portion of this rookery has thinned out and broken, and is separated from the main body of seals by a broad, vacant space, half a mile in width. The mass of seals at the foot of the tall cliffs at the southern end looks well. The decrease is not so noticeable here as on most of the rookeries of St. Paul.

The count of harems for this season gives 65 as against 128 found here in 1897.

3. *Zapadni.*—Zapadni rookery of St. George shows a decline similar to that of the St. Paul rookeries. The beach portion of the rookery which extended in the direction of the watch house in 1897, and on which Mr. Lucas counted 39 harems and 431 cows, is entirely without seals in 1909. The remnant of the rookery lies on the first bench of the hill slope. The beach portion to the south under the cliff has thinned down and practically disappeared.

For the 133 harems of 1897 there are 43 harems in 1909.

4. *Staraya Artel.*—This breeding ground occupies the even slope of a hillside, which breaks off in an abrupt cliff. The harems are in a massed condition throughout. Of all the rookeries of the two islands this one shows least evidence of decline.

There were 57 harems here in 1897, and there are 42 in 1909.

5. *North.*—North rookery is very much like Kitovi on St. Paul, occupying the bowlder beach at the foot of cliffs and short bowlder strewn hill slopes without massed portions. It spreads along a mile of shore front. It shows lateral shrinkage at the western end, but at the village end the harems extend as far as they did in 1896. It is thinned out and scattered and shows breaks, but the decline is less striking than on the other rookeries in general.

There were 196 harems here in July, 1897, and 106 in July, 1909.

HAREM COUNTS.

The counts of harems or breeding families were all made within the period of rookery life known as the "height of the season," between the dates of July 12 and 18, these dates corresponding in general to those on which the similar counts for 1897 were made.

Summary of harem counts.

Rookery.	1897	1909
St. Paul.		
Gorbatch	308	120
Ardiguen	33	11
Reef	454	184
Sivutch	102	61
Kitovi	179	55
Lukanin	139	39
Polovina	143	42
Polovina Cliffs	61	23
Little Polovina	40	19
Morjovi	233	45
Vostochni	910	184
Zapadni	458	147
Little Zapadni	176	62
Zapadni Reef	114	11
Tolstoi	295	87
Tolstoi Cliffs	98	25
Lagoon	115	12
Total	3,858	1,127
St. George.		
Little East	46	4
East	128	65
Zapadni	133	43
Staraya Artel	57	42
North	196	106
Total	560	260
St. Paul	3,858	1,127
St. George	560	260
Grand total	4,418	1,387

On the basis of harem counts the breeding herd on the two islands stands in the season of 1909 at 31 per cent of what it was in 1897; in other words, has in the 12 years suffered a decline of 69 per cent. The decline on St. Paul alone is 71 per cent; on St. George alone, 55 per cent.

The difference in the amount of decline between the two islands seems to be due to the effects of Japanese sealing. The greater part of the herd, about four-fifths, is to be found on the rookeries of St. Paul. The Japanese sailing fleet has evidently chosen to operate about the larger island. In the season of 1908 it was concentrated off the Northeast Point rookeries, this accounting for the specially striking decline of the seals on the rookeries of Morjovi and Vostochni, which is greater than that of any of the other rookeries. In like manner the fleet has this season been concentrated in the vicinity of Southwest Point and Otter Island, evidently seeking the pathway of the seals of the rookeries of Reef Peninsula, Tolstoi, and Zapadni. The sealers have apparently worked little in the vicinity of St. George.

In the case of the St. George rookeries there seems to be a striking difference in the relative condition of the rookeries to the north and east when contrasted with the rookery to the southwest. Zapadni rookery of St. George shows a reduction in every way comparable with the rookeries of St. Paul, while the other rookeries of this island, with the exception of Little East, show a much smaller decrease. It may be noted that Zapadni rookery faces toward the southwest which is the direction of the most frequented feeding ground of the seals, on the Southwest Quadrant. The Zapadni seals may frequent this ground, while the seals of Staraya Artel, North and East, feed

in the direction of the Northeast Quadrant and in grounds not so successfully reached by the pelagic sealers.

It may be said with reference to this count of harems that, although it indicates decline in the herd, it does not give an actual measure of decline. The conditions affecting the herd of breeding bulls are different from those affecting the herd of breeding cows, and have to do with the methods of land killing, not with those of pelagic sealing. To constitute a measure of decline or even absolute proof of such decline would require the presence on the rookeries of an excess of adult male life of the idle bull class, thrown out of service by the scarcity of breeding females. There is no such excess of idle bulls, the rookeries in this respect standing in marked contrast to the conditions prevailing in 1896–97. The reduction in harems, however, becomes a strong corroborative evidence of decline when taken in connection with the counts of individual cows and pups.

In general the harems correspond in size with those of 1896–97. Many single-cow harems were noticeable; also many very large harems numbering 75 cows and over. On certain circumscribed and isolated breeding areas, as Tolstoi Cliffs, Lagoon, etc., the general average harem was larger than on the other rookeries in general.

THE ACTIVE BULLS.

The number of active bulls is naturally identical with the preceding count of harems, 1,387. In physical vigor, vigilance, and pugnacity the average harem bull in 1909 was in every way equal to that of 1897. An unusual number showed scars, marks of fighting during the early part of the season, although the actual fighting in the height of the season was less than in 1897, due to fewer idle bulls. The idle bulls present in 1909, however, were aggressive and taxed the vigilance of the harem masters in their neighborhood as in 1896–97.

No dead bulls were seen this season, and no dead cows whose death could certainly be charged to rough treatment by fighting bulls. In 1896 there were seen 28 bulls dead as a result of fighting. In respect to the relations of the active, idle, and young male life on the breeding grounds, the present season seems to have marked a much more normal and favorable condition than did the seasons of 1896–97.

Among the active bulls in the season of 1909 were a considerable number of young gray bulls; some of them so young and inexperienced that they would not hold their ground against the approach of a man, although apparently they were accepted on terms of equality by their neighbors. These young bulls were unusually attentive and active and gave every evidence of being effective breeders. Under the conditions of 1896–97 this class of young bulls would have been shut off the rookeries absolutely by the buffer of idle bulls and would doubtless have had to wait two or more years before attaining a place on the breeding grounds. The accession of this young, vigorous male life on the rookeries thus earlier must be a decided gain, especially as the life of the adult male seems not to be as extended as was originally estimated, being in the neighborhood of 13 instead of 18 years.

It is probably not essential to the survival of the fittest among the bulls that there should be constant fighting on the rookeries between the bulls in charge of harems and a class of bulls of equal age and strength without harems but struggling to get them. The dead

bulls, and especially the dead cows, found by us in 1896–97, show that such strenuous conditions have a positively injurious effect. The severest ordeal which the bull fur seal has to pass through is undoubtedly the harsh winter at sea. This weeds out the weak and defective and the old, sending back to the breeding grounds in the spring only the strongest and most vigorous. The result of the fighting between idle and active bulls, so far as the bulls themselves are concerned, has, for effect, only the maiming or crippling of a certain number of harem masters, their places being taken by animals of the same age and presumably no better qualified as breeders. The wounded animals withdraw from the rookeries. They either recover fully from their injuries or are put out by the storms of the winter, and again only the fittest are returned in the spring.

It may be assumed that every adult bull which seeks and obtains a place on the rookeries in the spring is a fit animal. A proper provision for maintaining a reserve of male life for breeding purposes is one which insures not a buffer of idle adult bulls about the breeding grounds, but a plentiful supply of young bulls growing up to take the places of those which fail to reappear in the spring.

THE BREEDING COWS.

The breeding season, beginning about June 10 and extending to about August 10, reaches a climax, known as the "height of the season," about the 12th to the 18th of July. At this time the greatest number of cows are present, the harem discipline is rigid, and each family is definitely marked out. After this period the cows and pups scatter out and intermingle, the mother seals spend longer time at sea, the pups learn to swim, and the harem system breaks up.

Prior to 1896 it was thought that at this height of the breeding season practically all the cows were present, and that an enumeration of the individual seals at that time would give a result approximately correct. It was later found, however, from a count of the pups on certain rookeries, that even at this period of greatest expansion of the rookeries no more than half the cows were ever present at one time. The counts of cows made in 1896 were accordingly ignored in making up the census of breeding seals in this season and in 1897. Such counts would, however, have a comparative value, and accordingly the rookeries so counted in 1896 were recounted in 1909 on the same dates and in the same manner. They are as follows:

Counts of cows.

Rookery.	1897	1909
Kitovi	2,436	892
Lagoon	1,319	281
Tolstoi Cliffs	1,286	698
Zapadni Reef	1,049	137
Ardiguen	470	207
Amphitheater	654	127
Little East	497	71
Total	7,711	2,413

The number of cows found at the same dates in 1909 on these breeding grounds is 31 per cent of the number found in 1897. This gives the same percentage of decline that is shown by the comparison of harems.

The real measure of the herd of breeding cows, however, must be obtained from the count of pups. The mother seals are coming and going from the feeding grounds during the season, the periods of absence varying from 5 to 10 days and growing longer as the season advances; but the pups remain for the first month or six weeks in one definite place on the rookery. A count of the pups is therefore the only sure index to the number of mothers.

COUNTS OF PUPS.

The pups learn to swim at the age of a month or six weeks. Prior to that time their place on the rookery is definitely fixed. In counting them it is necessary to go on the rookeries and drive off the adult animals. This counting can therefore not be done until the breeding season has broken up, and it must be done before the pups have learned to swim. The period between August 1 and 10 meets these two conditions. The counts of live pups were made in the season of 1909 on August 2 and 4, and are as follows, the records for 1897 being included for comparison:

Rookery.	1897	1909
Kitovi	5,289	1,979
Lagoon	2,598	693
Tolstoi Cliffs	[1] 2,664	1,452
Zapadni Reef	3,041	319
Ardiguen	736	355
Total	14,328	4,798

[1] Count of 1896.

The number of pups found on these typical rookery grounds in 1909 is 33 per cent of the number found 12 years ago. The individual rookeries show considerable variation, the percentage of decline on Tolstoi Cliffs being about 50, while that on Zapadni Reef is 90. The conditions on these rookeries are found to be extreme, however, and not properly applicable to the breeding grounds generally. This was found to be the case also in 1896–97, and hence as in those seasons the more nearly typical condition of Kitovi rookery is taken in arriving at the number of breeding cows. The average harem of this rookery is found, by dividing the total number of pups born upon it by the number of families in the height of the season, to be 36. The average harem for 1897 on this rookery was 29.5, and for 1896, 34. The average harem of Kitovi rookery will therefore be used in estimating the number of cows and pups on the rookeries on which only harems were counted, the actual counts of pups being used on the rookeries on which they were made.

It will be noted that the decline on Kitovi rookery alone as shown by a comparison of its stock of pups in 1897 with those in 1909 has been 63 per cent.

ESTIMATES OF COWS AND PUPS.

Applying the average harem of Kitovi rookery, 36, to those rookeries on which only harems were counted, using the counts of pups where made, we are prepared to complete our estimates of the cows and pups. These are as follows, the estimates of 1897 being included for comparative purposes:

Rookery.	1897	1909
St. Paul.		
Gorbatch	9,086	4,320
Ardiguen	736	355
Reef	13,393	6,624
Sivutch	3,009	2,196
Kitovi	5,289	1,979
Lukanin	4,100	1,404
Polovina	4,218	1,512
Polovina Cliffs	2,200	828
Little Polovina	1,180	684
Morjovi	6,873	1,620
Vostochni	26,845	6,624
Zapadni	13,511	5,292
Little Zapadni	5,192	2,232
Zapadni Reef	2,200	319
Tolstoi	8,702	3,132
Tolstoi Cliffs	2,891	1,452
Lagoon	2,598	693
Total	[1] 112,864	41,266
St. George.		
Little East	1,190	144
East	3,766	2,340
Zapadni	3,923	1,548
Staraya Artel	1,681	1,512
North	5,782	3,316
Total	16,352	9,360
Summary.		
St. Paul	112,864	41,266
St. George	16,352	9,360
Total	129,216	50,626

[1] The total here is 112,023; apparently an error in addition. Additions, etc., in this manuscript have not been verified.

The totals given above are to be used double; that is, they do not include cows and pups, but give the number of cows, and there are a like number of pups. They represent a decline in the breeding female stock and in the birth rate of pups of 61 per cent in the period of 12 years. This is the actual percentage of decline in the breeding herd, the conditions of one season being exactly compared with the conditions of the other. The percentage differs for the two islands; that for St. Paul alone being 64, and for St. George alone being 43, the latter island having about one-fifth of the total herd.

In the foregoing enumeration of cows and pups it is not claimed that the exact number of animals on the rookeries are given in these figures. They contain estimates for those rookeries on which the actual pups were not counted, which are obtained by applying to them the conditions of a single rookery, approximately, but not exactly, typical of the rookeries as a whole. Speaking of the census of 1896, which gave a total of 157,405 cows and as many pups, the commission of that year said: "It is impossible that the enumeration should be made absolute. This total means between 150,000 and 160,000."

The commission intended the same qualification to apply to the census of 1897. Speaking in the same way of the above census of 1909 we may say that the total of 50,626 means between, say, 48,000 and 55,000.

The important thing about the enumeration for 1909 is that it is made in exactly the same way as that for 1897. Its estimates are the same. The personal equation of the observer is the same, and its results are fairly comparable with those of the census of 12 years ago, giving a safe comparative estimate of the condition of the herd. It gives an approximately accurate measure of the herd's decline.

ESTIMATES BY AGENTS.

In the report of the chief agent in charge of the fur-seal islands appear from year to year estimates of the fur-seal herd. In the literature available to me I do not find these estimates for 1898 nor for 1908. The estimates for the intervening seasons are as follows:

Year.	Harems.	Cows and pups.	Year.	Harems.	Cows and pups.
1899	4,573	89,261	1904	2,169	87,585
1900	4,310	93,132	1905	1,758	78,836
1901	3,797	90,236	1906	1,440	64,157
1902	2,837	94,882	1907	1,210	50,825
1903	2,343	97,296			

The apparent increase in cows shown in these estimates for the seasons of 1899 to 1903 has been hard to understand or accept. For the same period there has been an apparent decrease of nearly one-half in the number of breeding families. The action of pelagic sealing was heavy and uninterrupted during this period and it seems impossible that the herd should increase.

When we come to examine the method of arriving at these estimates, however, the difficulty is easily cleared up. We find that with the season of 1899 there was a steady increase in the number of pups counted to secure the average harem to be applied to those rookeries on which pups were not counted. This soon included the whole of the rookeries of St. George and more than one-third of the island of St. Paul. The counts of pups were used directly in the estimates for St. George, and for the remainder of St. Paul, instead of an average harem based on the condition of Kitovi rookery, having about 3,200 pups, an average harem, obtained from rookery areas embracing about 25,000 pups, was used.

Not only was this method widely different from that employed by us in 1897, but there was more or less variation from year to year, all tending to increased accuracy and completeness, but at the same time tending toward results which were not comparable year by year or with the basis established in 1897.

In the meantime the abnormal reduction of harems which marked this period, the cause of which had nothing to do with pelagic sealing, was affecting certain of the rookeries on which pups were being counted, in greater degree than others, especially those on which only harems could be counted. For example, in 1909 we find by the count

of live pups that the average harem on Lagoon, Tolstoi Cliffs, and Zapadni Reef is 52 cows; for Kitovi rookery alone, 36. But the conditions on the three former rookeries are not typical of the St. Paul rookeries as a whole. If these rookeries had been combined with Kitovi in completing the estimate for St. Paul, the average harem would have been increased to 43 instead of 36, with a corresponding increase in the number of cows. This average of Kitovi alone was used in 1909 because it was this average alone that was used in 1897.

Lagoon, Tolstoi Cliffs, and Zapadni Reef, as well as other areas regularly counted for pups, are so situated that they have had few idle bulls. Being without hauling grounds they are out of the way of the young bulls. As a result they show, in the growing scarcity of bulls, a greater decrease in harems than in cows. Their inclusion during 1899–1907 in the data for obtaining the average harem for St. Paul has tended to give a unit that was disproportionately large for the uncounted rookeries, the result being an excess of cows which seemed to be an increase, but which was not.

When we consider the counts of pups by themselves for the seasons 1900 to 1903, we do not find any evidence of increase. On the portions of St. Paul and for the whole of St. George these counts are as follows:

Year.	St. Paul.	St. George.	Total.
1900	18,831	17,953	36,784
1901	17,972	14,671	32,643
1902	16,835	14,830	31,665
1903	15,781	14,647	30,428

We may therefore assume that no real increase in the herd of breeding cows occurred in the period in question, the apparent increase being abundantly accounted for by the altered method of making the estimate.

AN EQUILIBRIUM IN THE HERD.

In 1907 the full count of pups not having been made, the estimate of breeding seals for the year was made up by the chief agent on the basis of Kitovi rookery alone for St. Paul and North rookery for St. George. The resulting estimate is therefore more nearly comparable with the estimate of 1897 and with the estimate of 1909 than any other made in the intervening season. It gave for the season of 1907 a total of 50,825 breeding cows. The total number of breeding cows for 1909 has been found to be 50,626. The close correspondence of these figures suggests a stationary condition in the breeding herd.

It was recognized in 1896–97 that a condition of equilibrium in the herd might result from the gradual reduction of the pelagic catch. In paragraph 13 of the joint statement of fact agreed upon by the conference of fur-seal experts in 1897 this condition is expressed as follows: "It is equally plain that a certain number of females may be killed without involving the actual diminution of the herd if the number killed do not exceed the annual increment of the breeding herd, taking into account the annual losses by death through old age and through incidents of the sea."

In addition to the similarity of the final estimates of 1907 and 1909 a number of other conditions seem to point in this same direction. For example, let us compare the number of harems for the two seasons, which are as follows:

Harems, 1907 and 1909.

Rookery.	1907	1909	Rookery.	1907	1909
St. Paul.			*St. Paul*—Continued.		
Kitovi	55	55	Little Polovina	14	19
Lagoon	15	12	Vostochni and Morjovi	247	229
Polovina Cliffs	24	23			
Zapadni Reef	10	11	*St. George.*		
Lukanin	34	39			
Tolstoi Cliffs	30	25	North	81	106
Tolstoi	99	87	Little East	7	4
Zapadni	155	147	East	46	65
Little Zapadni	68	62	Zapadni	28	43
Gorbatch	108	120	Staraya Artel	26	42
Ardiguen	11	11			
Sivutch	45	61	Total	1,352	1,387
Polovina	33	42			

The slight increase in number of harems for 1909 may easily be accounted for by the fact that after having perhaps reached its lowest point in many years the stock of breeding bulls has begun to increase with a tendency to increase the number of harems, even though the stock of cows remains stationary. The number of idle bulls in 1907 was noted as 61; the number for 1909 was 189.

Again, the trend of certain typical rookeries, as shown by the counts of pups, points toward equilibrium. I do not have at hand the count of live pups for Kitovi for 1906, nor the count of North rookery for the present season; but taking three seasons for each rookery between 1906 and 1909 we have the following results:

Pup counts.

Year.	Kitovi.	North.
1906	.....	3,854
1907	1,959	4,185
1908	1,960	4,123
1909	1,979	.....

The slight variation in these counts might easily be explained by inaccuracies in counting. The counts for North rookery in 1896 and 1897 were made by different persons.

Finally, if there is not a virtual state of equilibrium in the herd, it is difficult to understand the quota which has been taken for the past five years. This is as follows:

	Skins.
1905	14,368
1906	14,476
1907	14,964
1908	14,964
1909	14,368

Under the conditions of 1896–97, when the killing was confined to animals of 3 years and older, these figures would not mean much;

but for the past three years at least the quota has included practically all animals of 2 years of age and over that have appeared on the hauling grounds. With this fact in mind, unless we assume a virtual equilibrium in the herd we can not explain the equilibrium in its yield of bachelor seals.

The real test of the matter, however, lies in the condition of the pelagic catch. This for the past four years has been as follows:

Bering Sea and northwest coast.

Year.	Canadian.	Japanese.	Total.
1906	10,370	10,515	20,885
1907	5,397	8,782	14,179
1908	4,954	.....	(1)
1909	574	4,382	4,956

[1] Incomplete.

These figures are incomplete. Those for 1906–7 are quoted in the chief agent's report for 1907; those for 1908 for the Canadian fleet alone were obtained at the office of the American consul at Victoria. The figures for 1909 are those reported by the revenue-cutter fleet to August 14. The most that can be said for them is that they mark a heavy decline in the pelagic catch, tending to bring it within the margin of natural gain.

The idea of the equilibrium in the breeding herd is based upon the assumption that the stock of breeding females is each year augmented by a certain number of 3-year-old cows coming to bring forth their first pups, and that under normal conditions this increment of young cows exceeds the natural losses of the breeding stock through accidents and losses through old age. Unaffected by pelagic sealing, therefore, we would expect the herd to show increase from year to year in proportion to the margin of gain. Under the action of pelagic sealing, which results in the killing of breeding females, we would expect the herd to show decrease so long as the number of females taken by the pelagic sealers exceeded this margin of gain. When the number of females in the pelagic catch equals the margin of gain there will be equilibrium. If it falls below the margin of gain, the herd will increase even under pelagic sealing.

A herd of 50,000 breeding female fur seals gives a birth rate of 50,000 pups. Half of these will in the course of time appear on the hauling grounds as killable seals; the other half will appear as young breeders on the rookeries, each class being diminished by all the natural losses and accidents incident to the life of the young fur seal on land and in the sea. In 1896–97 we were inclined to estimate this natural loss prior to the age of 3 years at one-half of the number born. It is probable, however, that this estimate is too high for the diminished herd. It may be, for example, that feeding conditions are not so strenuous as a result of diminished numbers. At any rate the yield of the killing fields for the past five years would seem to indicate a higher rate of survival than one-half, practically two-thirds; or, from a herd of 50,000 breeding females, 15,000 young males of 3 years of age and a like number of females of the same age.

The increment of gain to the breeding herd has therefore in the past three to five years been about 15,000 young cows each season.

Assuming that the age of the female is approximately 13 years, she has an average breeding period of 10 seasons. The natural loss to the herd of 50,000 adult cows would be about one-tenth each season, or 5,000. The net increment of gain would therefore be about 10,000. Pelagic sealing not exceeding this number of females would hold the herd in equilibrium, and to the extent to which it might fall below this number would permit of its increase.

If we consider the pelagic catch for 1907, applying to its total of 14,179 seals a proportion of two-thirds [1] for females, we find that it probably entailed a loss of approximately 9,800 females; or, if we assume a proportion of three-fourths,[1] the loss would be approximately 11,000. This is in either case just about the loss which the herd in its present state could sustain without materially decreasing. It is probable that the total pelagic catch for 1908 was less than that in 1907, and the catch for 1909, as reported for the Japanese fleet to August 14, amounting only to 4,383, will be lighter still, the Canadian catch for this season being insignificant.

In view of all these considerations I am inclined to believe that the loss sustained by the herd through pelagic sealing, by reason of the reduced catch, has in the past three seasons fallen within the natural increment of gain and that the herd is virtually in a state of equilibrium at its lowest point.

Whether or not this is actually the case only the observations of the coming and subsequent seasons can absolutely determine; but the conditions of the seasons 1907–1909 certainly seem to fulfill all the theoretical requirements of a state of equilibrium.

THE NONBREEDING SEALS.

The nonbreeding seals comprise the reserve of breeding males, the killable seals or bachelors, the 2-year-old cows, and the yearlings of both sexes.

THE BREEDING RESERVE.

This may be divided again into the idle bulls, the young or half bulls, and the reserve of older bachelors.

1. *The idle bulls.*—These are adult males, equal in age and strength to the active or harem bulls, but they have been unable either by reason of unfavorable location or of diminution of cows to secure harems. They occupy the hill slopes in the rear of the harem bulls, fighting more or less among themselves and with the harem masters during the season, in the latter case trying to steal cows, in many cases succeeding and probably in most cases securing temporary harems toward the close of the breeding season when the vigilance of the harem bulls is relaxed. In 1896–97 the idle bulls as a class outnumbered the active bulls and were the cause of continual turmoil and confusion on the rookeries. The animals of this class in 1909 were few in number, only 189 in all, forming a very striking contrast to the condition in 1897.

In the strict sense of the word the idle bull is not a reserve bull, but a superfluous bull. Of the same age, practically, as the active bull, perhaps older, he is just as apt as the latter to disappear in the

[1] Proportion of females in pelagic catch: Alexander, 1895, 62 per cent; Halket, 1896, 84 per cent.

winter migration in the sea, which acts as a sifting process for the aged and infirm, sending back to the rookeries in the spring only the most fit. At most, he can be said only to provide a substitute for some harem bull which may accidentally become disabled. There is no benefit to the rookeries in having them overrun with this class of animals, as they were in 1896–97. The conditions in this respect in 1909 were more rational and normal.

2. *The young or half bulls.*—These animals are young males which, though sexually mature, have not yet developed the strength and confidence which enables them to contend with the experienced harem masters. In the height of the breeding season they occupy positions in the rear of the idle bulls or on the water front of the rookeries. They are appropriately called "quitters" by the agents, because they will not stand on the approach of a man and will not charge in defence of their positions, as the idle bulls will. They move on and if too closely pressed will take to the water. They are an unstable feature of rookery life—here to-day, yonder to-morrow—and many of them appear regularly in the drives among the bachelors. Toward the close of the breeding season many of them succeed in obtaining harems of young cows. These animals constitute the real reserve of male life on which the maintenance of the breeding herd must rely.

COUNTS OF IDLE AND HALF BULLS.

In making the count of harems in the height of the breeding season, careful counts of the idle and half bulls were made. These counts are as follows:

Harem.	Idle.	Young.	Harem.	Idle.	Young.
St. Paul.			*St. Paul*—Continued.		
Gorbatch	22	26	Zapadni Reef	1	1
Ardiguen	2	.....	Tolstoi	14	13
Reef	13	54	Tolstoi Cliffs	4	1
Sivutch	2	2	Lagoon	3	1
Kitovi	14	31	*St. George.*		
Lukanin	7	11			
Polovina	3	15			
Polovina Cliffs	.....	1	Little East	.....	.....
Little Polovina	2	1	East	14	29
Morjovi	7	9	Zapadni	13	22
Vostochni	22	33	Staraya Artel	10	7
Zapadni	20	28	North	7	26
Little Zapadni	9	13	Total	189	324

This reserve of breeding males is 37 per cent of the number of active bulls. Leaving out the idle bulls, the stock of young bulls is itself 23 per cent of the active list. If we assume an average maximum age of 13 years for the male and an average age of 8 years for beginning harem duty, the natural loss of breeding males would be one-fifth annually, or, with the present stock of active bulls, 277. The supply of young males exceeds this. The herd is therefore well supplied with breeding males.

The conditions of 1909, however, stand in marked contrast in this respect to the conditions of 1897. In the latter season we estimated the number of idle bulls at 5,000 and the young bulls at 10,000.

3. *The reserve of bachelors.*—Beginning with the season of 1904, there has been set aside each spring a special breeding reserve of 2,000 young males of 2 and 3 years of age. These animals have been marked by clipping the head with sheep shears, giving them a whitish mark readily distinguishing them to the clubbers. They are carefully exempted on the killing field and released.

This method of creating a breeding reserve seems open to considerable criticism, and has apparently been only moderately successful. The mark put upon the animal is a temporary one. The fur is replaced during the fall and winter, and the following spring the marked seals can not be recognized. The animals being 2 and 3 years of age are still killable the next season, the 2-year-olds in fact the second season. A new lot of 2,000 is clipped the next season, and these are carefully exempted, but, except in so far as animals of the previous season's marking are reclipped, they have no protection the second season, and without doubt are killed.

If such is not the case, it is difficult to understand what becomes of them. The annual reservation from 1904 to 1907, both seasons included, would aggregate 8,000 animals. These animals would be of ages ranging from 8 to 5 years this season. The only animals present in 1909 which could have resulted from this reservation were the 513 idle and half bulls. Even if we assume that they have in the meantime replaced the entire stock of breeding bulls, this would account for only 1,900 of them, and the active bulls were for the most part of a distinctly older class.

The number set aside in attempting to create this breeding reserve has, of course, been entirely too high. At the time the plan was inaugurated the entire stock of active bulls was only 2,169. If we assume enough idle bulls to bring the adult breeding stock up to 2,500, the breeding life of the bull being at least 5 seasons, 500 would have been the increment necessary to maintain the stock. Allowing for a considerable loss through pelagic sealing, 600 to 800 would have been an ample reserve.

For the present this reserve should be reduced to about 500 animals. They should be chosen from the older animals, the 4-year-olds, not 2 and 3 year olds. An animal of this age, protected by some mark distinguishing him to the clubber, would have developed a "wig" by the following season and this would afford him all further necessary protection.

The present use of a temporary mark placed on the head has this further objection: It puts a premium on carelessness in clubbing. If the animal is set aside for breeding purposes the mark put upon him might well be a permanent one, marring the value of his skin to the pelagic sealer who may chance to get it. The fact of this blemish will enforce greater care on the killing field. The clipping on the head is doubtless the best mark for the clubber. A brand inflicted by burning can not safely be put on the head, but while the animal is being clipped there is no reason why a brand with a hot iron or an electric cautery should not be applied to his back or shoulders. The present method of marking the breeding reserve not merely eliminates the penalty for careless clubbing but lends aid and comfort to the enemy of the fur seal, the pelagic sealer.

But whatever may be said of the shortcomings of this method of creating a breeding reserve, the fact remains that an entirely ade-

quate reserve of bulls, young and old, has been maintained, and this reserve is on the increase. During the present season it has been augmented by 2,000 animals, part of which may well be taken for the quota of next season. The number clipped or branded for next season need not exceed 500, and these being selected from the 3-year-old animals saved this season will then have developed wigs and achieved final safety by the spring of 1911.

THE "SCARCITY" OF BULLS.

During the seasons 1903 to 1906 there was marked in the rookery conditions of the Pribilof Islands an unusual reduction in adult male life. This is shown by the following summary of totals from the counts made by the agents for the seasons in question:

Idle and half bulls.

Year.	St. Paul.	St. George.	Total.	Year.	St. Paul.	St. George.	Total.
1903	418	.....	418	1907	234	32	268
1904	232	62	294	1908	205	61	266
1905	119	22	141	1909	385	128	513
1906	80	21	101				

Through misinterpretation of such phrases as "scarcity" of bulls, "dearth" of bulls, etc., as applied to this condition, some alarm was created in 1904 as to the adequacy of male life on the rookeries. This is shown by the report of the hearing before the Committee on Ways and Means of the Fifty-eighth Congress under date of March 9 and 10.

That the situation in this period warranted close attention is clearly shown by the above counts. That the superfluous and reserve male life on the rookeries should have fallen from 15,000 animals in 1897 to 294 in 1904 and later to 101 animals in 1906 was indeed a matter for alarm. The fact, however, that at the very lowest point in this fall there were bulls to spare inidcates that no actual injury resulted to the breeding herd. The gradual increase of the reserve of males since 1906 as clearly indicates that the energetic action of the agents in creating a breeding reserve operated to turn the tide of decline and safeguard the future interests of the herd.

This decline in male life on the rookeries is interesting because two distinct causes were at work to produce it. One cause had to do with the disappearance of the idle bull class; the other had to do with the failure of an adequate supply of young bulls to escape from the killing fields. These causes were widely separated in time of action, one dating some 12 to 15 years back, the other beginning perhaps in 1900 and being still in operation.

As the first cause had to do with a modus vivendi in which killing on land was arbitrarily restricted, and the outcome of the alarm in 1904 over the effect of the two causes resulted in the proposal in the Fifty-eighth Congress of a law providing for another modus vivendi arbitrarily restricting land killing, it is worth while to consider this matter of the reduction of male life in some detail.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE IDLE BULLS.

In 1896–97 we found the idle bulls and young bulls dominant on the rookeries. We estimated the number of the former at 5,000, of the latter at 10,000. These estimates may have been slightly high, but the effect produced by the presence of these superfluous animals, together with the turmoil and fighting they induced, is very well represented by the figures. We considered the idle bulls, and the young bulls which were bound to grow up to be idle bulls, as a positive menace to the breeding herd, recommending their reduction by killing.

The cause of this excess of male life was recognized by the commission of 1896–97 to be the modus vivendi of 1892–93, with the reduced killing of the year preceding, in all three seasons land killing being arbitrarily restricted to a few animals to provide food for the natives, the bulk of the young male life being left to grow up as bulls. These animals were, respectively, 4, 5, and 6 years of age in 1894. There was a further less extensive restriction of land killing in 1894 and 1895. By 1896–97 these animals, exempted in 1891, 1892, and 1893, were 6, 7, and 8 years of age and constituted the bulk of the superfluous male life on the rookeries in those seasons. By 1901 they were 11, 12, and 13 years of age, and having reached what appears to be the average age of the bull fur seal they disappeared as definitely and arbitrarily in the seasons of 1901, 1902, and 1903 as they had appeared 10 years previously in the category of prospective bulls.

The operation of the modus vivendi of 1892–93, in so far as the restriction of land killing was concerned, worked only injury to the herd. The abnormal conditions it created on the rookeries persisted for many years and served to obscure their real status. Had the joint resolution of the Fifty-eighth Congress, directing the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to suspend the killing of seals on land, prevailed, a result similar to that which we have just described—filling them with a horde of idle, fighting bulls—would have occurred, to the actual detriment of the breeding herd.

THE AGES OF THE SEALS.

An incidental thing of some value this modus vivendi of 1892–93 seems to have done. It practically fixes the age of the average adult male fur seal at about 13 years. A great body of these animals was seen to disappear, practically as a class, 10 years after a date when they were known to be 3 years of age. This must fix within very close range the life of the adult male.

Further light on this subject ought to result from continued observation of the 5 branded bulls and 34 branded cows observed this season on the rookeries. These animals were branded not later than 1902, and as the same mark was used for several successive seasons there will at best be a margin of doubt. But one bull bearing a brand has been recognized as occupying a place on Kitovi rookery for five consecutive seasons. He is of the oldest type of animal to be seen on the rookeries. If he entered upon harem duty at 6, 7, or 8 years, he is now either 11, 12, or 13 years of age. This, again, does

not fix the matter with absolute certainty, but, taken in connection with the disappearance of the idle bulls created by the modus vivendi of 1892–93, it helps to indicate the average breeding age of the bull as about 13 years.

With a view to helping in the solution of this problem, the permanent branding suggested for the breeding reserve of males should be varied from season to season, so that the year in which the particular brand borne by an animal was given may be known. The large number of branded animals now visible on the rookeries would go far to settle this question of ages if it were not that through lack of variation in the brand it can not be determined in which of the three seasons—1900, 1901, 1902—any particular animal was branded.

THE 2-YEAR-OLDS AND YEARLINGS.

It is hard to arrive at a definite estimate of these animals. The 2-year-old bachelors appear on the hauling grounds and under the present method of killing form the greater part of the quota of the lessees. Of the quota of this season 7,178 skins were under 7 pounds in weight. There were rejected from the killing fields 1,110 animals too small to be killed. This number can not be taken at its full value because some of the animals were undoubtedly driven more than once. Of the animals marked for the breeding reserve about one-half, or 1,000, were probably 2-year-olds. This gives us a total of about 9,000 for animals of 2 years old which with more or less certainty are known to have appeared on the hauling grounds in 1909.

This number can not, however, represent all the 2-year-olds. As we have already seen, in discussing the matter of equilibrium, the quota has remained stationary at between 14,000 and 15,000 for several years. While this number includes animals of 2, 3, and 4 years each season, the fact remains that to maintain this quota there must necessarily have survived for these seasons of equilibrium in quota an equal number of 2-year-old animals.

We are forced therefore to believe that in addition to the 9,000 animals above accounted for in the season of 1909, there are other animals of the 2-year-old class which either have not appeared on the hauling grounds during the season or failed to appear because killed last season as yearlings. How many such animals there may be to be accounted for it is hard to say. Few if any yearlings were seen this season on the hauling grounds and only a few on the breeding grounds prior to August 5. They will appear later in the season. It may be that a certain number of the 2-year-olds associating with them are absent with them at sea.

However, from the fact that the quota of the past five years has remained stationary at slightly less than 15,000 skins, it would seem that there must have been during this period an equal number of 2-year-old animals, and we may therefore assume that 15,000 virgin cows came to the breeding grounds for service during the season of 1909.

The yearlings of both sexes for the season must number about 12,000 each.

This question of the proportion of the sexes surviving to killable and breeding age is a fundamental one. It could be settled in a very

few seasons by such regulation of killing for the quota as would limit it to animals of 3 years of age and over, leaving the 2-year-olds untouched. The quota would then fall where it belongs, on the 3-year-olds, and give a close approximation of the survivals among the young males, which in turn could be applied to the young females. This was the method used in 1896–97, when a minimum of 6 pounds in weight of skins prevailed. During the present season and for some seasons past a minimum of 5 pounds has been in force, the skins taken ranging in weight all the way from 4 to 14½ pounds, bringing all classes of animals from yearlings to 4-year-olds into the quota.

The result of this manner of killing is that we have no clear idea from the quota of the number of younger animals belonging to the herd. From the irregularity of the movements of the yearlings of both sexes and the 2-year-old cows, they can not be counted or otherwise accurately estimated on the rookeries.[1]

ESTIMATE OF SEALS OF ALL CLASSES.

Grouping the several counts and estimates heretofore given and including the corresponding figures for 1897 for purposes of comparison, we have the following summary of all classes of animals in the fur-seal herd appearing or to appear on the breeding islands this season:

Category.	1897	1909	Category.	1897	1909
Breeding bulls	4,418	1,387	Two-year-old males	20,000	(1)
Breeding cows	129,216	50,626	Yearling males	30,000	12,000
Pups	129,216	50,626	Yearling females	30,000	12,000
Idle bulls	5,000	189	Quota	20,886	14,638
Young bulls	10,000	324			
Bachelor reserve	2,000	4,114	Total	402,850	158,520
Two-year-old cows	20,000	15,000			

[1] Included in quota of 1909.

THE QUOTA.

In 1896 the maximum figure set for the quota to be taken by the lessees was 30,000, and the full number was taken without difficulty, owing to the fact that in the two preceding seasons the killing had been somewhat restricted, the maximum quotas for 1894 and 1895 being, respectively, 20,000 and 15,000.

The maximum limit was in effect removed in 1897 and the driving and killing was continued later than usual, in fact until the 10th of August, the purpose being to avoid a possible claim by the British commission of investigation that the quota for this season was subject to arbitrary reduction, its reduction under natural conditions being recognized as a factor in the decline of the herd then under investigation by a joint American and British scientific commission. The number of skins taken in 1897 was 20,766 and the difference between this figure and that of the preceding season was admitted as an evidence of decline.

[1] It should be explained here that the minimum of 5 pounds does not apply to seals killed by natives for food. Skins under and over weight included in quota are from food drives.

The following is a list of the maximum and actual quota for the seasons 1896 to 1909, to which the annual estimates of breeding seals are appended for purposes of comparison:

Years.	Breeding herd.	Maximum quota.	Skins taken.	Years.	Breeding herd.	Maximum quota.	Skins taken.
1896	157,405	30,000	30,000	1903	97,296	30,000	19,292
1897	129,216	.....	20,766	1904	87,585	15,000	13,128
1898	.....	30,000	18,032	1905	78,836	15,000	14,368
1899	89,261	30,000	16,812	1906	64,157	15,000	14,476
1900	93,132	30,000	22,470	1907	50,825	15,000	14,964
1901	90,236	30,000	22,672	1908	.....	15,000	14,964
1902	94,882	30,000	22,386	1909	50,626	15,000	[1] 14,368

[1] Thirty-two of these were hold overs from 1908.

Assuming that the quota of 1896 was somewhat abnormal on account of a surplus of larger bachelors left over from previous seasons, we may consider the quota of 1897 as practically normal, representing the approximate product of the hauling grounds. For the season of 1909 we find that a quota of 14,368 skins is taken as against this quota for 1897 of 20,766. In short, from a herd reduced by practically two-thirds of itself in 12 years there has been taken a quota reduced by only slightly more than one-fourth of itself.

The maintaining of a fixed maximum quota on a rapidly declining herd inevitably led to close killing. With the right to take 30,000 skins, the leasing company naturally took just as many skins as it could get without reference to the condition of the breeding herd or of its reserve of breeding males. The maximum quota should have been fixed upon a sliding scale determined by the known decrease of the herd.

Until 1899 the number of skins taken under the quota showed the gradual reduction which the diminishing herd made natural and inevitable. In the year 1900, however, we find the number of skins taken rising to above 22,000, a gain of 6,000 skins. With a diminishing herd this was impossible under normal conditions.

We find the cause of the rise in a statement from the report of the chief agent quoted in the hearing before the Ways and Means Committee of the Fifty-eighth Congress on March 9 and 10, 1904, as follows:

> The lessees during the season of 1901 took skins ranging from a maximum of 10 pounds to a minimum of 5 pounds. Previous to 1900 the lowest limit of weight was 6 pounds, but a 5-pound limit was established that year, and during the past season (1901) as many 5-pound skins as could be found were taken.

This lowering of the limit of skins to 5 pounds accounts for the rise in the number of skins secured. It permitted the taking of a younger animal and the reserve of 2-year-olds was made to eke out the 3-year-olds. This anticipated in part the quota of the following year. By bearing more heavily on the 2-year-olds the next season and by taking practically all of them in the third season, the catch was maintained at slightly above 22,000 skins for the three seasons. Then came the inevitable decline to 19,000 in 1903, and again in 1904 to 13,000. At this point the maximum quota was lowered to 15,000 skins, and active measures were taken by the Government agents to insure the escape of a sufficient number of males for breed-

ing purposes. Since 1904 the work of the killing season has represented a kind of contest between the agents and the lessees, the former to save its breeding reserve, the latter to get every possible skin.

As we have already shown in discussing the method of creating the breeding reserve of bachelors, the lessees have in all probability taken regularly each season the greater part of the animals set apart the preceding season, there appearing only a net gain of 324 animals from a total reservation of 8,000.

In the quota of St. Paul Island for 1909 are 1,017 skins of 8 to 8¾ pounds weight. The killing of last season being practically as close as this, it is improbable that this number of animals could have escaped killing in 1908 unless they belonged to the class exempted by clipping in that season, but taken this season because of the obliteration of the mark.

The following figures drawn from the very complete statistics of the killings kept by the agents illustrate the difference in conditions on the killing fields between 1897 and the seasons following 1904:

Year.	Percentage of animals killed to those driven.	Rejected animals.		
		Large.	Small.	Branded.
1897	44	7,522	15,829	.....
1904	56	641	4,794	1,888
1905	59	735	5,548	1,516
1906	59	1,707	3,980	1,705
1907	68	2,076	1,537	1,533
1908	.....	.....	.....	.....
1909	69	1,185	1,110	1,915

The percentage of animals killed to those driven in 1897 was 44. This percentage has steadily risen since 1904 until in the season of 1909 it is 69, and this figure is not strictly comparable with the percentage of 1897. In that season no branded reserve for breeding purposes was made and all killable seals were taken. In 1909 a breeding reserve having been set aside from the class of killable seals, 1,915 animals belonging to this reserve were rejected in the killings. To make the conditions of 1909 correspond with those of 1897 this number must be added to the animals killed, bringing the total of killable seals up to 83 per cent of those driven. In other words, had the close killing of 1909 been applied to the season of 1897, 83 instead of 44 per cent of the animals driven would have been killed.

This high percentage of animals killed together with the steady and rapid diminution of the animals rejected on the killing fields, because too small, points to a rapid exhaustion of the reserve supply of bachelors from which succeeding quotas are to be drawn. For the season of 1909 there is every indication that the lessees have taken every available bachelor above the age of 1 year, with the exception of the marked reserve. On the closing day of the present sealing season every hauling ground on both islands was driven from, and Gorbatch and Zapadni twice, in the effort to reach

the legal quota of 15,000. In short, the North American Commercial Co. has in the closing season of its lease cleaned up the hauling grounds of the islands in the same thorough manner that the Alaska Commercial Co. did in 1889. The quota for 1910 must come exclusively from the yearlings of this season, unless indeed there are animals of killable age to appear on the hauling grounds next year which did not visit them this.

This view of the situation is not presented with the intention of criticising close killing at the present time. The conditions just now are exceptional. With a hostile fleet of hunters stationed on the 3-mile line ready to shoot down every animal attempting to cross it, an ample breeding reserve being provided for, it has been wise to take every possible animal bearing a skin on which the lessees would pay the royalty. At the same time it is not plain that were the conditions otherwise the representatives of the Government could help themselves. The history of the killing field since 1900 strongly suggests the wisdom of reserving to the Government in the future more complete control of the work of taking the quota. The interests of the lessees and those of the herd are by no means identical, and the latter are paramount.

MORTALITY AMONG THE SEALS.

The causes of mortality among the seals may be distinguished as of two kinds—natural and exceptional—the former having to do with conditions inherent in the herd itself, the latter due to its contact with man.

1. *The natural mortality.*—In 1896, 28 adult bulls were found on the rookeries dead from fighting with other bulls. No such dead bulls were found in 1909. Three bachelors were noted in 1897 as dead from accidents on the hauling grounds. One bachelor was found this season imprisoned by the shifting of a bowlder, the animal starving to death. In 1897, 131 cows were found dead under conditions which suggested rough treatment by fighting bulls. No deaths were noted in 1909 that could certainly be assigned to this cause. Four dead cows seen were in too advanced a state of decomposition to permit of accurate determination as to the cause of death.

A prolific cause of death among the very young pups in 1896–97 was found in the action of a small parasitic worm, *uncinaria,* which developed in the small intestines of the very young pups, causing death through anemia or possibly toxic poisoning. A mortality aggregating 11,000 pups was found in 1896 from this cause.

It was hoped that the present season's work would throw some additional light on this subject, but such has not been the case so far as my observations are concerned. In the first place the diminished breeding herd has wholly abandoned those areas on which the parasite was found to be most deadly. The sand flat of Tolstoi rookery and the "death traps" of Zapadni contained no seals this season. The masses on Reef and other rookeries which occupied the flat sandy areas had all shrunk back to the bowlder beach.

A certain number of dead pups were found as the season progressed which suggested death from the worm, but in every case the primary cause of death and apparently the only one was starvation. In 1896–97 pelagic sealing did not begin until August 1, and its effect

in the starvation of pups was not felt on the rookeries until after the middle of the month. In 1909 pelagic sealing was in active operation about the islands throughout the month of July, and its victims both sick and dead took the place of the animals which in 1896–97 we found affected with *uncinaria*.

This subject was specially assigned to Mr. Chichester, one of the Government agents, who has been pursuing a medical course, but unfortunately he was this season stationed on St. George Island, where no traces of the worm were found in 1896–97. In the case of the dead pups examined by us sections of the small intestines were saved in formalin. The suggestion having been made that possibly the adult animals themselves might act as a host carrying over the worm from season to season, infecting the rookeries anew each spring, sections of the intestines of many bachelor seals and of such adult females as could be secured were saved also for close study, and all this material was turned over to Mr. Chichester.

While there is no reason to infer that this cause of death among the pups has ceased to act, it is certain that the important fields of its operation—sandy areas in massed rookery grounds—were for the most part abandoned by the seals this season and have not been occupied for some time. We may therefore conclude that its action is at present at a minimum. Its detailed study can be pursued from season to season as occasion may offer. It will probably not again become an important factor until the recuperation of the herd shall bring about reoccupation of the areas now abandoned.

The absence of excessive fighting due to a heavy pressure of idle bulls has left deaths among the pups from fractures, bites, and the like at a minimum. One pup was found bitten through the neck by a bull.

The breeding stock of both sexes is subject to a natural death rate from old age. In the case of the bulls, the average breeding period being apparently about five seasons, this would amount to about 20 per cent of the active bulls. In the case of the adult cows, the average breeding period being apparently about ten seasons, this loss would amount to 10 per cent. This loss among breeding seals from old age would occur at sea in the winter migration.

A heavy mortality not easily determined must affect the pups and yearling seals in their early migrations. In 1896 our judgment seemed to place this at about one-half of the entire birth rate prior to the age of 3 years. Whether because this estimate was too high or because conditions have become less strenuous on account of the diminished herd, it would seem likely in view of the quota of recent years that a larger percentage, perhaps two-thirds of the birth rate, survive to the age of 3 years.

2. *Exceptional causes of mortality.*—At the hand of man the annual quota of young male seals has been taken in the usual way on the killing field. Due in all probability to the broken and scattered conditions of the rookeries, the bachelors hauling through and about isolated harems, the drives of this season showed toward the close a considerable number of cows. Fifty in all were recognized and released on the killing fields. Two adult females, however, were accidentally killed in a drive from Reef and two more in a drive from Zapadni, despite the efforts of the clubbers to avoid striking them. These accidents suggest the need of greater care on the part of the

natives in making the drives and of greater care on the part of the clubbers. It would be better to release the entire pod containing cows than to run the risk of clubbing any. A drive might better be omitted that could not be made without including 15 or 20 cows.

A cow seal was found dead from buckshot wounds by pelagic sealers on Kitovi rookery. The wounded animal had barely strength to reach the shore, dying on the water's edge. This suggests that, in addition to the large proportion of females which are included in the reported catch of Japanese sealers, a considerable loss will be sustained by the herd in animals fatally injured but not secured.

In the boats of a Japanese sealing vessel seized on July 9 were two cows which had been shot. One contained an unborn pup; the other was in milk and left a dependent pup upon the rookeries to starve.

In 1896 there were counted on the rookeries of St. Paul and St. George in October 16,000 pups which had died of starvation as a result of pelagic sealing outside the 60-mile zone. This pelagic sealing did not begin until August 1. In 1909 pelagic sealing under new conditions was in operation off the rookeries throughout the breeding season. The Japanese fleet of 18 vessels from a position near the 3-mile territorial limit shot seals in large numbers as they came to or departed from the shore. Starvation therefore as a cause of death among the pups was present on the rookeries from the beginning of the season.

On August 2 and 4 the following counts of pups were made on certain rookeries of St. Paul:

Rookery.	Pups born.	Starved.	Starving.
Kitovi	1,979	60	50
Tolstoi Cliffs	1,452	53	36
Lagoon	693	22	30
Ardiguen	355	16	20
Zapadni Reef	319	10	7
Total	4,798	161	143

The animals here noted as starving were pups, which would be dead within a few days. The total of 304 dead and dying pups is 6½ per cent of the birth rate on the rookeries in question. A like condition prevailed at the time on the other rookeries of St. Paul, practically every harem having its dead and dying pups. This starvation was confined to the work of the pelagic sealing fleet in July. It would be duplicated, if not exceeded, by the sealing of August and early September. We may, therefore, assume a death rate of approximately 13 per cent among the pups of the season from this cause.

These various causes of mortality among the seals, at the present time operating at a minimum, affect the condition of the herd, as a whole, only in so far as they tend to diminish the stock of breeding females. Reduction through old age occasions a definite loss for the season of 10 per cent. The accession of young 3-year-old cows amounts under present conditions to about 24 per cent, estimating a survival of 12,000 animals of this class. This is a net gain to the herd of 14 per cent to offset the action of pelagic sealing, which, as we have seen by the record of starved pups, amounts to about 13

per cent. The losses, therefore, about balance the gains, and the breeding herd rests in a state of equilibrium at the lowest point in its history since coming into the control of man.

PELAGIC SEALING.

In 1896–97 pelagic sealing was confined to Canadian and American vessels operating off the northwest coast during the spring migration of the fur-seal herd, and in Bering Sea on the summer feeding grounds of the mother seals. This sealing was regulated by the provisions of the Paris award, which prescribed a closed season of three months—May, June, and July—and a closed zone of 60 miles radius about the breeding islands, within which season and zone all sealing was forbidden. Furthermore, the use of firearms was prohibited in Bering Sea. By act of Congress approved December 29, 1897, American citizens and vessels were prohibited from engaging in pelagic sealing.

The commission of 1896–97 was inclined to look upon the regulations of the Paris award as of little value. So far as the actual protection and preservation of the herd is concerned, they were and are of no practical benefit. They do not prevent the female, heavy with young, from being pursued during January, February, March, and April as she returns along the northwest coast. She is granted a respite of three months, in which the last stage of her journey to the breeding islands may be made in peace, and she may bring forth her young. After the 1st of August, however, she is again hunted on the feeding grounds, to which she must go constantly until the storms of winter drive the pelagic sealers from the sea and force her and her young out on their winter migration. The prohibition in the use of firearms has only negative value. It would be against the interests of the pelagic sealers to use guns in hunting sleeping seals.

The regulations of the Paris award, however, when contrasted with the form of pelagic sealing which has developed since 1897 under the operation of the Japanese fleet, rise very greatly in dignity and importance and show a capacity for protection that at least is able to retard and postpone the evil day of the herd's destruction.

Japan was not a party to the regulations of the Paris award, and they are not binding upon her citizens, who need not respect the closed season or the closed zone, and who may use firearms. They participate in the spring sealing off the northwest coast and need not pause when May 1 comes and the Canadian sealer is forced to suspend. They lie in wait for the seals at the Aleutian Passes, and when the bulk of the herd has entered the sea they approach the breeding island and, anchoring their vessels just off the 3-mile territorial limit, they patrol this limit throughout the breeding season with their small boats, every seal coming to or leaving the rookeries to feed at one time or another coming within range of their guns.

Operating under such advantageous conditions, Japanese sealing has naturally driven Canadian sealing, handicapped as it is by the regulations of the Paris award, out of business. According to information received from the American consul at Victoria, it was understood that no vessels of the Victoria Sealing Combination were to be sent out this season. Three vessels under independent auspices cleared from Victoria for the spring sealing and with two additional vessels were expected to go later to Bering Sea. Three of the vessels

were known to be engaged in sea-otter hunting near Sannak in June and later went to the Asiatic side. One Canadian sealer only, the *Thomas F. Bayard*, was actually known to have engaged in sealing in Bering Sea this season, and she did not enter the sea until after August 18.

Canadian sealing is therefore at the present time practically a negligible quantity. The real menace to the herd is Japanese sealing. Operating as it does under a Government bounty, with low expenses and every advantage of position and equipment, it can be maintained at a profit long after Canadian sealing shall have ceased. The 18 vessels which this season were anchored about St. Paul Island could be so stationed off the rookeries of that island, and the same is true for St. George, that their 120 hunting boats could patrol every rod of the 3-mile line, a line across which every animal must pass, and the important element of the herd, the mother seals, pass again and again during the season.

Pelagic sealing reached its maximum catch in 1894, the first season under the regulations of the Paris award, at 141,000 skins taken in all waters, 61,000 being from the Pribilof Island herd. In 1897 its catch was already on the decline. In that year its full catch was 39,110 skins, of which 24,321 were from the Pribilof herd. The following figures give the catch, season by season, down to 1907:

	Catch.
1897	24,321
1898	28,552
1899	34,168
1900	35,191
1901	24,050
1902	22,812
1903	27,000
1904	29,006
1905	25,320
1906	20,885
1907	14,179
Total	285,484

The temporary rise in the catch in 1903 and the seasons immediately following mark undoubtedly the impetus to pelagic sealing given by the Japanese fleet. The subsequent decline is the inevitable result of the self-destructive nature of pelagic sealing, which uses up its own capital. For the season of 1908 the Canadian sealing catch is reported at 4,954. I do not have at hand the report for the Japanese fleet. The Canadian catch for 1909 will be small. Only 574 skins were reported for the northwest coast catch and the Bering Sea sealing will be light. The catch of the Japanese fleet as reported by the patrol fleet to August 14 amounted to only 4,383 skins, showing that even the Japanese catch will be low. This reduction of the pelagic catch does not mark any respite to the herd. The depleted herd necessarily yields a diminished catch. This in turn will reduce the fleet, vessels making unprofitable catches dropping out. The Japanese pelagic fleet for 1906 is reported as numbering 31 vessels, that for 1907, 36. This total probably includes vessels which do not operate on the American herd. At any rate the entire Japanese fleet as found by the patrolling cutters in Bering Sea numbered only 18 vessels this season.

A diminished Japanese fleet, however, is a different thing from a diminished Canadian fleet. The latter must seek its prey in the open sea far from land. The former can lie in wait for it within sight of the shores which contain its breeding home. Three Japanese vessels about St. Paul Island, one at Northeast Point, another at a point between Otter Island and Zapadni Head, and the third off the eastern side of the island, could command the avenues of approach of every animal seeking this island. Two vessels off St. George could do the same. There is necessary only patience and perseverance on the part of a few Japanese sealers, qualities which are characteristic of the race, to hold the herd in check if not to cause its further decline.

All of the objectionable features of pelagic sealing which inhered in it as carried on by Canadian and American sealers in 1896–97 apply with equal and even greater force to the Japanese sealing. It was my melancholy duty in 1896 to remain on the fur-seal islands until late in October to observe and count the starved pups resulting from the sealing of that season. It was a bitter task to watch the struggle of these sturdy little animals against their inevitable fate. The older the animal the longer the fight, toward the end some of them lasting five and six weeks, wasting to mere shadows. We counted 16,000 of them then. The same tragedy has been enacted each season since on the rookeries of St. Paul and St. George, resulting in an inhuman and shameful waste.

In 1909 I have again reviewed this bitter phenomenon of starving pups. In 1896 it began about the 15th of August; this season it began with the 1st of July. On August 1, with less than half of the sealing season over, 6½ per cent of the pups born on the rookeries of St. Paul were dead or dying of starvation, with a similar if not greater percentage still to die as a result of August and September sealing.

But not merely does Japanese sealing, like Canadian sealing, kill the mother seal and leave her young to starve; it harasses the gravid female to the last moment of her journey to the breeding islands. In one of the boats of a Japanese sealing schooner seized on July 9 off Otter Island was the body of a dead female fur seal containing an unborn pup within a few hours of birth. In 1908 two schooners were seized at Northeast Point in July. With their catches, aggregating 650 sealskins, they still lie in the harbor at Unalaska. I had an opportunity to visit them and found on one, salted side by side with the regular catch of sealskins, 45 little black skins. These were the skins of unborn pups cut from their mothers in a catch of 416 skins.

In the sales catalogue of C. M. Lampson & Sons, the great sealskin jobbing firm of London, for December 17, 1907, we find an item, "Black pups, 55," and again in the catalogue of the sale of January 24, 1908, "Black pups, 52." These also are the skins of unborn fur-seal pups taken from their dead mothers, the thrift of the Japanese sealer leading him to turn them to account. The 45 skins in the sealing schooner *Saikai Maru* in Unalaska Harbor were listed in the invoice of the vessel at 25 cents each. This would probably be the price paid for them at the London sales. The furriers will doubtless find a use for them. They may even appear as trimming on a lady's jacket. There is much agitation over the use of bird skins in the trimming of hats and laws are enacted regulating it. What shall we say of a lady's jacket or muff made from the skins of unborn fur-seal pups?

The pelagic sealer does not see or will not see these phases of the matter. To him it is a cold business proposition into which sentiment does not enter. In the same way the hunter would not spare the doe or the brooding quail if he were not restrained by law. If these animals were under the sole jurisdiction of either the United States or England they would have received before this the protection of an adequate game law. Unfortunately, their feeding grounds are on the high seas, requiring international action. The United States and Great Britain, in the regulations of the Paris award, entered into a joint arrangement for the avowed purpose of "the proper protection and preservation of the fur seals." Through their joint commission of inquiry of 1896–97 the two nations were made fully aware of the futility of these regulations to accomplish their purpose. It is an international disgrace that 13 years should have elapsed without action, the herd in the meantime suffering a loss of 200,000 breeding females with an equal number of unborn and dependent young, involving a total decrease of 70 per cent and bringing the herd to the verge of ruin.

Japan was aware of the destructive nature of pelagic sealing in 1897 through the participation of her representatives with the United States and Russia in a conference looking to the abolition of pelagic sealing. She even agreed to such abolition for one year, pending the agreement and cooperation of Great Britain also in such abolition. Notwithstanding this she has by a subsidy and by the protection of her flag encouraged her citizens to engage in the business of pelagic sealing until her fleet has become the dominant factor in it. Ignoring the regulations of the Paris award, binding upon the citizens of the United States and Great Britain, her sealers carry on their work within sight of the breeding grounds, slaughtering the mother seals as they seek the land to bring forth their young or as they go to or return from the feeding grounds at sea. Citizens of Japan have broken international regulations, entering by force upon the breeding rookeries and killing there the breeding mothers. It is only by the maintenance of a most vigilant patrol of the waters in the vicinity of the islands that the United States is able to restrain these citizens of Japan from entering her territorial waters and by indiscriminate slaughter destroying the fur-seal herd on its breeding home.

Leaving out the question of sentiment, the continuance of pelagic sealing presents a hard, cold, business proposition which the United States can not afford to ignore. In 1896 there was on the Pribilof Islands a breeding fur-seal stock of 150,000 cows, reduced to this point from perhaps a maximum stock of 600,000. It was subject to an annual loss from old age of 10 per cent and received an annual increment of young breeders of 20 per cent, making a net annual gain of 10 per cent. The herd was in a position to grow and multiply. In the 13 years which have elapsed, if pelagic sealing had been abolished in 1897, the breeding herd would have nearly, if not quite, doubled by 1909. The product of its hauling grounds would have risen from 30,000 to 50,000, yielding a revenue to the Government under the terms of its lease of $500,000 a year. Without the drain of pelagic sealing, the herd would have continued to increase indefinitely.

On the other hand, what is the situation as we find it to-day? The breeding rookeries show that the herd has decreased from 150,000 to 50,000. The product of its hauling ground is 14,000 skins and its

income about $140,000. In the meantime the Government has contributed from its herd the 285,000 animals, the skins of which have been taken and marketed in the past 13 years by pelagic sealers. Three-fourths of these animals have been from its breeding stock, representing the difference of 100,000 between the breeding herd of 1896 and that of 1909, with an equal number accounting for the annual increment of gain which would have gone to the increase of the herd. The remaining animals have been young males. The market value of pelagic sealskins for the period in question has averaged about $15 per skin.[1] These 285,000 skins therefore represent a cash loss to the United States of $4,275,000. It may be noted also that a breeding female has a value, through her capacity to bear a pup each season for 10 seasons, far in excess of the value of her skin. It is not necessary to press these figures further. They are sufficiently startling as they stand. They show that the United States Government could have doubled even the most extreme valuation that was in 1897 put upon the Canadian sealing fleet as indemnity for the extinction of its rights and have saved money by the bargain.

But this extinction of pelagic sealing was not accomplished in 1897, nor has it been done since. To-day we have two pelagic sealing fleets to deal with and a new nation. The question now is, What should be done? The answer is: Get rid of pelagic sealing as soon as possible and at whatever cost.

There remains still a vigorous breeding nucleus of 50,000 animals. We have shown that this is subject to a net gain of approximately 10 per cent under natural conditions. Assuming the suppression of pelagic sealing, the herd will gain at compound interest at this rate. In 8 years it will double, in 13 to 15 years it will be back where it was in 1896, and its growth will continue until the full rehabilitation of the herd is accomplished. The product of its hauling grounds will increase season by season. In 15 years the revenue from this should rise to $500,000 annually and increase further with the growth of the herd.

The protection and preservation of this valuable property depends absolutely upon the abolition of pelagic sealing. The question of property values aside, however, it is the duty of the nations concerned to protect and preserve this race of animals. As President David Starr Jordan, of Stanford University, has well said:

> The fur seal is the noblest of all the mammals of the sea. From the naturalist's point of view, it is one of the most interesting forms of life on the earth. Unlike the buffalo, the elk, the stag, and like animals, it occupies territory that can not be used for any other purpose. Where the former animals once roamed, great cities have since grown up; but the haunts of the fur seal would be deserted for all time if their inhabitants were destroyed.

THE PATROL.

During the season of 1909 the patrol in the vicinity of the breeding islands has been carried out in a very thorough and vigilant manner by the four vessels of the revenue-cutter fleet, the *Manning*, Lieut. W. A. O'Malley, commanding; the *Rush*, Capt. D. F. A. de Otte; the *Perry*, Capt. Haake; and the *Bear*, Capt. E. P. Bertholf. Capt. W. V. E. Jacobs, detached from the *Manning*, stationed at Unalaska, has been in command of the fleet. The vessels have made individual

[1] See Sims: Alaskan-Fur Seal Fisheries (H. Doc. No. 251, 59th Cong., 2d sess.).

cruises of 13 days each, with 4 days in port for coaling and repairs. Two vessels were constantly in the vicinity of St. Paul Island, one off Northeast Point, the other off the village end. A third vessel was stationed off St. George, three vessels being on duty while one was in port.

Fortunately the *Perry* made a seizure early in the season, on July 9, taking into custody the sealing schooner *Tenyu Maru* with a catch of 39 skins, her boats having approached within the 3-mile limit under cover of Otter Island. This seizure undoubtedly engendered caution on the part of the Japanese sealers and restrained attempts at raiding.

On two occasions heavy firing was heard in the fog in close proximity to the rookeries off the eastern side of St. Paul and again at Northeast Point. This was believed to represent attempts on the part of the Japanese sealers to frighten the seals from the rookeries in the hope that they might come within range of the hunters on the 3-mile limit. In the case at Northeast Point the guards report that nine boats with 18 guns participated in a quick dash well in toward shore, the hunters volleying as rapidly as they could load and discharge their guns.

On the 18th of July, while the *Perry* was at anchor at Village Cove, the fog lifted to the eastward of the island and showed several small sealing boats apparently well within the 3-mile limit. The vessel was signaled and got under way as quickly as possible, but the distance about the reef is great, and by the time the boats were reached they were well outside the limit, if, indeed, they had been within it at all.

It would be very difficult, except by the merest chance, for a cutter to catch a boat guilty of deliberately entering territorial waters. The attempt would be made on the side of the island opposite from that on which the vessel was stationed. The signal from shore and the smoke of the vessel in getting up steam serve as warning to the sealers and the boats are able to get outside the line before they can be reached.

This incident and others occurring during the season suggest the desirability of wireless communication between the islands and the patrol vessels. Signals can not always be relied upon and time is lost in sending messages from shore by boat. It is also evident that if it had been possible to dispatch a launch from East Landing on the afternoon of the 18th it might have overhauled the boats in time. When the patrol vessel is stationed on one side of the island, weather permitting, it would be advisable to have her launch stationed on the other side.

On the evening of August 4 the guards at Zapadni rookery reported three boats apparently about to make a landing at Southwest Point on St. Paul. The cutter at the Village Cove was communicated with and immediately went to the scene, but darkness intervening, she was not able to find any trace of the boats. The vessel did not have a searchlight and the incident suggests the desirability of such equipment for all patrol vessels.

The value of the patrol, however, does not lie in the pursuit of sealing boats which may possibly infringe upon territorial waters. It lies in the moral effect, preventing actual raiding of the rookeries. Sealing from boats is not materially better at 2 miles from shore than at 3 or 4. All seals coming to or going from the rookeries must

cross all three lines, and there is little divergence. A sealing captain is not likely to jeopardize his catch and vessel for the slight advantage which the forbidden waters may offer. The real advantage would be in landing and making a raid.

The patrol at sea is a roundabout way of dealing with a raid. It would undoubtedly be attempted in a fog, when the cutters can not be safely handled close to the shore. A strong guard in the vicinity of the rookeries is a much more effective means of protection. The patrol will prevent raiding, but there its efficacy ends. The vessels and men must stand about helplessly and see the same slaughter of the seals accomplished from the safe vantage of the 3-mile limit. A less vigilant sea patrol combined with a strong shore guard of marines would accomplish something in the way of seizures. Let the patrol at sea be relaxed. Let raids be attempted and let the men guarding the rookeries have an opportunity to fight it out with the invaders.

The patrol of the 60-mile zone is at present useless. The sealing 10 or 20 miles within it is not so good as that far beyond it. As the captain of the Canadian schooner *Thomas F. Bayard* said to me in Dutch Harbor: "The cutters will not find me on the 60-mile zone; our best sealing is 90 to 150 miles out." Furthermore, there is no sealing within the closed zone which can be effectively carried on by means of the spear, the only weapon available to the Canadian sealer. If he violates the law and comes within the zone the patrolling vessels will have a better opportunity to seize him close to the islands. The only sea patrol therefore which is really necessary at the present time is that at or near the 3-mile limit. The main point being the guarding of the rookeries from raiding, the most effective and economical method of accomplishing this purpose would seem to be a strong shore guard cooperating with one or more vessels off shore, the two forces operating under one control. It would seem best that the officer directing this defense be stationed on St. Paul Island rather than at Unalaska, 250 miles away.

I am aware that the idea of a marine guard on the islands is not likely to be a popular one. The attitude of the representatives of the lessees during the present season toward the acts of the patrol fleet, from the cruising of its launches to the sounding of its whistles in the fog, was frankly critical, almost hostile. The suggestion of a marine guard does not in any way call in question the courage or efficiency of the native guards or of the agents. The courage and zeal of both were abundantly tested in the stirring events of the season of 1906 and not found wanting. The natives and agents are, however, occupied during the season with other duties. The points to be guarded are distant from the villages. The guards can not therefore have the personal direction of the agents at all times. If a raid should occur at Northeast Point it would take between three and four hours by team to get reinforcements or one of the agents to that point, because of roads that are slow by day and impassable at night. The native guard must in the meantime be left to his own devices. It stands to reason that trained marines under proper officers would be more reliable and effective.

The question is merely one of economy and administration—how to get the best results at a minimum cost. It must not be lost sight of that the present patrol is an expensive thing. I do not know what the

cost has been for the present season, but in 1896 Capt. C. L. Hooper, then in command of the patrol fleet, estimated the cost for that season at $176,380. There were five vessels that season, four this, with a season twice as long, covering June and July as well as August and September. If we apply this estimate of Capt. Hooper's to the past 13 seasons, we find that this patrol, which has been powerless to prevent or stay the decline of the herd, has cost approximately $2,275,000. The patrol must be maintained so long as pelagic sealing exists, but if it is possible to reduce the number of vessels operating at sea by strengthening the shore defenses the matter is one worthy of serious consideration.

ROOKERY MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.

The proper management and control of the fur-seal herd involves a complex problem which can not easily be stated in detailed form. The commission of 1896–97 was content, aside from offering a few suggestions, to rest the whole matter on a single recommendation—that the herd should be put in charge of a competent naturalist, who should act as its custodian, have full control of its interests, and devote himself to mastering its problems and improving its condition. The initiative and growing experience of such a man would naturally suggest and multiply ways and means of accomplishing the desired end. The problems of the herd all remain unsolved, and the one great need still is for such a custodian.

The history of the past 13 years shows that this work can not be left to the regular agents. It is not reasonable that it should be. They have their regular duties to perform, and in the pressure of these the special needs and problems of the herd are naturally set aside.

In 1896–97 two practical experiments were inaugurated by the commission and sufficiently tested to warrant considering them feasible. If these two experiments had been faithfully and persistently carried out year by year they would have settled the fur-seal question by the elimination of pelagic sealing; but they were abandoned.

The first of these experiments was the branding of the female fur-seal pups to destroy the value of their skins. The second experiment involved the herding of the bachelor seals, as they were rejected from the killing fields, in the Salt Lagoon and Webster Lake, which had been fenced for the purpose, thus keeping them out of the reach of the sealers. It is inconceivable that pelagic sealing would now be an active and profitable business if the animals—the breeding females—which make up the bulk of its catch yielded skins practically worthless because branded, the remaining animals—the bachelors—being shut up on land out of their reach.

It is nonsense to call these experiments failures as they have been designated. The 40 branded adult animals, marked nine or ten years ago, which were seen this season on the breeding grounds in charge of harems or occupying harems with their pups abundantly disproves this charge. The branded female fur-seal skin on exhibition in the Natural History Museum at Victoria is an object lesson as to the effect on the pelagic sealer of the accomplished fact of branding.

These experiments had, moreover, a wider intent than that of a mere deterrent to pelagic sealing. They provided a means by which we could put our property mark upon these animals and demon-

strate such control over them as is commonly exercised in the case of domestic animals in which men claim and maintain property rights when they wander beyond their owners' boundaries.

The effects of these experiments were not so apparent in connection with Canadian sealing. Its status had been fixed by our acceptance of the findings of the Paris award. The sphere of its operation was remote from the islands. In the turn which pelagic sealing has taken in the meantime their importance, however, has vastly increased. We now have a fleet of vessels from another nation to deal with whose right to take seals at sea we have not formally recognized and whose operations are carried on within sight of our shores and the rookeries which constitute the breeding home of the animals.

Looking at the matter in any light one chooses, there seems to be no excuse or palliation for the neglect to follow and utilize these practical agencies of defense within our reach. Much was said when the experiments were inaugurated about the probable injurious effect on the seals. The disturbance of the rookeries was great and worthy of consideration, but always in the light of the probable good that might arise. There was, however, back of our advocacy of the branding experiment in 1896–97, the record of the 20 years in which from 10,000 to 15,000 pups were regularly driven up each fall, the females culled out, and the males killed for natives' food. This process was identical with that of branding. No suggestion had ever been made that this process of driving and killing pups had injured the herd.

Furthermore, among the statistics which the work of the agents in the past 12 years have made available are a series of counts of live pups, showing that for seven or eight years there were regularly counted a total of approximately 40,000 live pups on the rookeries of the two islands. This was practically half of all the pups born annually. It was a heavy labor, involving much disturbance of the breeding herd, and the results of the counts are unimportant. But little additional labor would have been necessary to brand an equal number of pups and the rookery disturbance would have been no greater.

In the plan of creating a breeding reserve, which has been in operation since 1904, this principle of branding should have found application. Instead of merely clipping the heads of these young males, a permanent brand destroying the value of the skin should have been used, removing the possibility of the animals being included in future quotas and making their skins valueless to the pelagic sealer. It should have been possible, moreover, to herd this breeding reserve with other bachelors in the Salt Lagoon.

The work of counting live pups on Kitovi rookery in 1909 was looked upon by the agents as a regrettable necessity and strongly condemned by the representatives of the lessees because it turned breeding females into the sea which might thus come within the reach of pelagic sealers. At the same time, animals set apart for breeders among the males and bachelors to form the nucleus of the quota of next year were turned back into the sea daily without compunction in the 33 drives of the season on St. Paul Island.

It is on the killing field, however, that the great need of a guiding and controlling hand is shown. In 1896–97 the Government agents ordered the drives. This season they have been entirely in the hands of the lessees. The young males set aside for breeding purposes having been marked, the lessees have been free to take what they could get, and this resulted in their taking practically all of the bachelors appearing on the hauling grounds.

The one limit on the killings was that they should cease on the 31st of July. This limit in itself is subject to criticism. In 1897 the driving was continued as late as August 10. With a fixed legal quota, and a limited time in which to secure it from a failing herd, there naturally results close severe driving. In the eagerness to see that no possible bachelor escapes, the edges of the rookeries are encroached upon and cows included in the drives. Fifty of them appeared in drives toward the close of this season. A drive that can not be made without including cows should be omitted. A drive which appears on the killing field with 15 to 20 cows in it should be released rather than incur the danger of clubbing any such cow by mistake. There should be some one in charge of the herd with power and discretion to do this. With a limited killing season, however, this would be unfair to the lessees. There should also be power and discretion to waive the limit and extend the time of killing if necessary.

There has been on the killing grounds since 1900 a constant struggle on the part of the leasing company in the closing years of its concession to get every possible skin from the declining herd. Its work has been aided by a high arbitrary legal quota and by a lowered minimum weight of skin, enabling it to gradually anticipate the quotas of succeeding years by killing younger animals. As a result there has occurred in these years probably the closest killing to which the herd has ever been subjected. Aside from the diminished supply of male life on the breeding grounds in 1904, this is shown in the fact that though the herd has declined two-thirds in size, the quota has never fallen more than one-third in size as compared with that of 1897.

Opposed to this struggle of the lessees has been the counter struggle of the Government's representatives to rescue a breeding reserve. Fortunately it has been successful.

With a declining herd this close killing has not been so important as it would be in the case of an increasing herd. Fewer and fewer bulls have constantly been needed on the breeding grounds. Of the 5,000 bulls occupying harems in 1896, only 1,387 were needed in 1909. A diminished breeding reserve has therefore been possible. But we must consider a reversed condition of things, if pelagic sealing is to be done away with. The herd will then begin to grow. It will require a constantly increasing reserve of breeding males, which must be saved from the killing fields. A leasing company will be just as eager to get all possible skins and will press the product of the hauling grounds, rising all too slowly, to its limit unless restrained.

These conditions should be absolutely under the control of the Government through its representatives. The custodian of the herd should have full authority to act. Instead of an arbitrary quota, an arbitrary weight of skin, an arbitrary limit to the killing season, an arbitrary breeding reserve, etc., all fixed in Washington and issued in the form of orders, these matters should be open to revision and

modification in the interests of the herd as the season advances by those in charge of the herd.

If not in name, in fact at least, the leasing company has been in supreme authority on the islands during the past season. Its representatives criticized freely the work of investigation and declined to allow one of the Government agents and myself to make a count of harems on Zapadni rookery on a given day because it was the intention of the company to make a drive from this rookery the following day. I do not cite this incident to charge that my work was interfered with or hampered, for such was not the case. The time happened to be unimportant, although it might have been vital. The necessary counts were made after the drive by the agents. The fact, however, is that it was not our intention to disturb any hauling ground and there would have been no necessity for doing so. The prohibition might, of course, have been ignored, but the penalty for doing so would have been to accept part of the responsibility for the shortage in the quota of the lessees.

This authority, actual or assumed, has a practical bearing of importance. The lessees had the right to take 15,000 skins. They failed to get this number by 632 skins. Certain incidents, not under the control of the lessees but under the control of the Government, occurred, which might or might not have occasioned this shortage. The launch of a patrolling cutter encircled the Northeast Point rookeries in the discharge of its duties. A drive from these rookeries yielded a smaller result than was expected. Officers from a cutter landed at various times and erected signals at certain points to assist in getting measurements and locations of vessels and boats. The representatives of the company felt and declared that these acts had to do with their failure to secure the legal quota. These acts together with my investigations of the rookeries might easily be made the basis of a claim for damages resulting from the failure to obtain the full quota.

These matters are pointed out merely to show the anomalous situation induced by the present division of authority between the Government representatives and those of the company on the islands and in dealing with the herd. The matters cited are unimportant, but some crisis might arise where the Government would need a free hand in dealing with affairs affecting the welfare of the herd. Under present conditions it would be forced to defer to the company in the interests of its quota or incur the liability of claim for damages in case such action resulted in interference with the taking of the quota.

The Government's interests are in the herd itself and its authority should be supreme. The herd is now at its lowest point. It is to be hoped that the speedy suppression of pelagic sealing will soon permit of proper protection and that the herd can then be in time restored to its former populous state. This work of restoration will be a most important one. It should be intelligently handled and under conditions which will leave those who have the work in charge free and unhampered.

The present lease has expired. In the ordinary course of events a new one should be negotiated in time for next season. With pelagic sealing still in operation and no immediate prospect of its suspension, there being doubt also as to what quota, if any, may be obtainable

for next year, it is not clear how any company or individual can intelligently bid on a 20-year lease or a lease covering any considerable period. A bid on such a lease would be purely a speculation.

Through the decrease of the fur-seal herd the natives on the seal islands are practically out of employment and are virtually wards of the Government. They might be dealt with as other wards of the Government in the matter of support and their labor utilized for the present, in so far as it is not needed on the killing field, for improvement of conditions on the islands, both as regards their own homes and the care of the rookeries. The sanitary condition on the two islands should receive careful attention. Mr. Chichester, one of the agents having medical training, says that 50 per cent of all the inhabitants of St. George Island are affected with tuberculosis and that no house on the island is a fit place for a child to be reared in if it is to escape the disease. The schools of the islands might well become a part of the regular school system of Alaska.

The present agents of the Government are capable and experienced in all matters relating to the care of the natives. They are able to perform any of the functions now carried on by the lessees on the islands, including the direction of the work of the natives in the driving and killing of the seals and the curing of their skins. It would seem to be an auspicious time for the Government to undertake a readjustment of all conditions on the islands.

A custodian should be put in charge of the herd. Assuming that pelagic sealing will be done away with within a reasonable time, the herd is now at its lowest point. It is the most favorable time to begin that expert study and oversight of its condition and progress toward rehabilitation which it should have. This work should be hampered by no conflicting interest of lessees or the market in sealskins. One of the vital problems of the herd is the determination of the number of the young animals which survive to breeding age and to killable age. This is not known yet, and it is fundamental to intelligent action in handling the quota and in understanding the rate of growth which may be expected of the herd. The question can be settled in a few seasons by a proper regulation of the work of killing.

The work of killing should be limited to the animals of 3 years and over yielding suitable skins. These give skins averaging 6 to 8 pounds. It is wasteful to take skins of 4½ and 5 pounds which if left a season will gain 1 to 2 pounds in weight and be more serviceable. The killing for next season should be strictly limited to animals of 3 years of age. If this should result in the giving of no quota for next year, by reason of the fact that all the 2-year-olds have been killed this season, then let it be so. The same limitation should apply to the quota of 1911. In 1912 there would then be available a normal quota of killable seals at the age of 3 years, the age when they yield the choicest skins. Knowing very closely the birth rate of the present season, this quota will determine the proportion of young males which survive to 3 years. The sexes being equal, this will determine the proportion of the young breeding females of 3 years which are annually added to the breeding stock. The season of 1912 will not not determine this exactly perhaps, but each season after that date will add to its certainty.

Whatever skins are taken next year or in succeeding seasons, until such time as the Government is ready to call for a long-term lease, pelagic sealing having been disposed of and the condition of the herd being fully established, can be cured and prepared as at present under the direction of the Government's representatives and offered on the market to the highest bidder. Whether such new lease when made should follow the present plan of dual authority and control on the islands or should limit the lessees to the right to take such a number of sealskins each season as in the judgment of the custodian of the herd may safely be taken—a fixed price or royalty being paid, the authority of the lessees being limited to inspection and oversight of the processes of curing the skins—may be left to future determination. In any event, however, there should be an interregnum of from three to six years in which the authority of the Government through its representatives in the control of the herd should be supreme and unhampered by any other consideration than the best interests of the herd itself.

THE GENERAL FUR-SEAL QUESTION.

In 1896–97 the United States and Great Britain made a joint investigation of the condition of the fur-seal herd with a view to determining the effect of the operation of the regulations of the Paris tribunal of arbitration, these regulations providing for their resubmission to examination every five years, with a view to possible need of modification, and the first period of five years closing in 1898.

In anticipation of the report of this joint commission, the United States entered into an arrangement for a meeting in Washington in the fall of 1897 to be participated in by representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and Japan, this meeting to be known as the international fur-seal conference. Great Britain having withdrawn from this meeting, it was carried through by the three remaining powers. A treaty was entered into by which these three nations agreed to prohibit their citizens from engaging in pelagic sealing providing the consent of Great Britain to participation in such an arrangement was obtained. The proviso was made at the instance of Japan. Russia had already by law prohibited her citizens from engaging in pelagic sealing and the United States took steps at once by act of Congress to prohibit her citizens. The agreement was limited to one year, the time thought necessary to complete negotiations with Great Britain.

A second meeting was then held known as the conference of fur-seal experts, participated in by members of the American and British joint commission of investigation. This conference agreed upon a basis of fact, establishing the fact of decline in the fur-seal herd and the continued action of pelagic sealing as its cause. The abolition rather than the regulation of pelagic sealing was foreshadowed as the only adequate means of protecting and preserving the herd.

On the basis of this agreement as to facts, the fur-seal question passed with other disputed questions between the United States and Canada into the hands of the joint high commission which met at Quebec in 1898. This commission failed to accomplish anything.

Since that time various attempts have been made by the State Department at Washington and the representatives of Great Britain

to effect a settlement by treaty, but without result. The question so far as it concerns the United States and Great Britain remains practically as it was in 1897.

Meanwhile, Japan has herself developed a large pelagic sealing industry. Its fleet operating without regard to the regulations of the Paris award carries the work of destruction to the very shores of the breeding islands, putting the herd in greater jeopardy than did the work of the Canadian sealers. The work of the Japanese fleet being carried on without limitation as to time or weapons and within 3 miles of the shore has incidentally destroyed the Canadian industry.

The international question has therefore shifted, in importance at least, to one between the United States and Japan. The question between the United States and Great Britain is necessarily affected by the fact that the Japanese fleet is inimical to the Canadian fleet and has in reality usurped its industry. On the side of Japan conditions have also changed. In 1897, while nominally one of the owners of fur-seal rookeries, her rookeries had been all but destroyed by pelagic sealers and by raiders, and she was in a position to look upon pelagic sealing as a means of retaliation or of recouping her losses. By the treaty closing the Japanese-Russian war, however, she received the lower half of Saghalin Island and with it a small fur-seal rookery on Robben Reef off its southern shore. This has restored Japan to the status of an owner. Her herd, though small, and having its migration route in the Sea of Okhotsk, is liable in the end to the attacks of pelagic sealers. It is conceivable that the practically extinct rookeries of Japan on the Kuril Islands, belonging to the same herd as that of Robben Island, might be restored in time by overflow from this herd. The abolition of pelagic sealing would be as essential to the preservation of these rookeries, should their restoration become an accomplished fact, as to those of the Pribilof herd.

It may be noted that there is a difference from the point of view of the United States in the status of the Canadian and Japanese fleets. By her acceptance of the findings of the Paris award the United States acknowledged the legality of the pelagic sealing then carried on by Canadian and American vessels. In seeking the extinction of rights thus recognized, it was in order to consider some form of indemnity as due to the pelagic sealer. The Canadian sealing industry has in the meantime become bankrupt. It would have become so in any event, but this condition has been hastened by the operation of the Japanese fleet working under more favorable conditions. So long as the Japanese sealing continues the business of the Victoria sealers is gone. This is admitted by the fact that the Victoria Sealing Combine sent out no vessels this season. The Canadian fleet is, however, held intact in Victoria Harbor, doubtless awaiting indemnity. In past valuations of this fleet the question of prospective profits played a part. With the business of the fleet gone it would seem that past and prospective profits should be charged to Japanese sealing and only the actual value of the vessels should be taken into account by the United States.

The status of the Japanese fleet is different. The United States has not formally acknowledged its legality. The Japanese sealers have ignored the regulations of the Paris award and so have waived any claim of sanction under the findings of this tribunal. Further-

more, the actions of the Japanese sealers have been aggressively lawless and hostile. They have in defiance of law landed upon the territory of the United States and slaughtered animals belonging to its herd. Their vessels have repeatedly entered territorial waters or have sent their boats and hunters within such waters, as seizures by the patrolling cutters show. It is difficult to see how the question of indemnity can be held to apply in this case.

Finally, the entire burden of the abolition of pelagic sealing should not rest upon the United States, as the benefits of such action would be felt in equal measure by Russia. Her herd on the Commander Islands is being depleted by the pelagic sealers. On August 18 the Canadian sealing schooner *Thomas F. Bayard* on entering Bering Sea reported a catch of 103 skins taken in the vicinity of the Commander Islands. Japanese sealers prey upon the Russian herd as it passes the shores of Japan on its migration. It would seem that the active cooperation of Russia might be claimed in bringing this matter to a final issue.

The question naturally arises whether the herd at its present low state is worth the effort to save it. Doubt on this score in the past has led to the proposition that the Government should enter upon the breeding grounds and kill off the herd, deriving whatever profit there may be in the market value of the skins, incidentally ending the fur-seal controversy. We know, however, that even in these 13 years in which the herd has declined so heavily it has yielded in royalties to the Government the sum of $2,250,000; that the receipts for the present year will be $143,000; and that in the full period of 40 years during which the herd has been under the control of the United States it has yielded a total of $9,830,000 in royalties. The present nucleus of the herd is sufficient to effect its final restoration, if the incubus of pelagic sealing is removed. The property is too valuable to be destroyed or even to be longer trifled with. Past delay has caused heavy loss. The patrol of the sea necessitated by pelagic sealing is costly. Delay only adds to the loss and expense, and what is more important, postpones by just so much longer the rehabilitation of the herd. (See Sims: Alaskan Fur-Seal Fisheries, H. Doc. No. 251, 59th Cong., 2d sess., p. 42.)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Conclusions.—(1) That the fur-seal herd of the Pribilof Islands has in the past 13 seasons suffered a heavy decline, shown in the fact that whereas in 1896–97 there were respectively 5,009 and 4,418 breeding families and 157,000 and 130,000 breeding females, in 1909 there are only 1,387 breeding families and 50,000 breeding females, and in the further fact that whereas the hauling grounds of 1896–97 yielded respectively 30,000 and 20,000 skins, they yielded in 1909 only 14,000.

(2) That while the methods of land killing are open to some criticism they have in no way contributed to this decline, the breeding grounds having at no time during this period suffered from a dearth of breeding bulls, and there being at the present time an adequate supply of young male life held in reserve to safeguard the immediate future of the herd.

(3) That the cause of decline has been the continued operation of pelagic sealing, involving the abstraction of females in excess of the natural increment of young breeders, the injurious effect of this sealing being greatly heightened in recent years by the advent of the Japanese fleet operating throughout the breeding season in close proximity to the rookeries and using firearms.

(4) That the reduction of the pelagic catch through the steady decline of the herd has apparently since 1907 been so great as to bring the loss of breeding females within the natural increment of gain, causing the herd to remain since in a state of equilibrium at the lowest point of its history.

(5) That while the herd may possibly not for the present suffer further decline, unless pelagic sealing should receive some new impetus the more favorable conditions under which Japanese sealing is prosecuted will render it profitable even to a few vessels and will result in its indefinite continuance, preventing the growth and recuperation of the herd, the adequate protection and preservation of which can only be brought about by the abolition of pelagic sealing.

Recommendations.—(1) That every effort be made to end pelagic sealing, not merely by Canada, but by Japan as well, such concerted action of the powers in control of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea being obtained as will insure its abolition.

(2) That the present patrol of the 3-mile limit be continued, to the end that the rookeries may not be invaded, consideration being given to the possibility of strengthening the shore defense of the rookeries, with a corresponding lessening of the sea patrol.

(3) That the herd be placed at once in the charge of a trained naturalist, who shall have full authority in all matters relating to it and power to put in motion plans for solving its problems and im proving its condition.

(4) That an interregnum of three to six years be declared, in which the Government representatives shall administer the affairs of the natives and of the herd without being hampered by consideration of the rights and privileges of lessees, such product of the hauling grounds only being taken as may seem wise to those in charge of the herd, these skins to be cared for in the usual way, under the direction of the agents, and offered for sale upon the market to the highest bidder.

(5) That in releasing the fur-seal industry for any term of years, the present dual control be abandoned, the authority of the lessees being limited to such oversight of the operations of taking and caring for the skins as will insure their proper curing.

Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE ARCHIBALD CLARK,
Assistant in Charge of Fur-Seal Investigation.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, *September 30, 1909.*

APPENDIX I.

Actual counts of live pups, as made by agents, 1900 to 1905, inclusive.[1]

Islands and rookeries.	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
ST. PAUL.						
Kitovi	3,279	3,120	2,833	2,865	2,605	2,219
Lagoon	1,666	1,407	1,399	1,262	1,084	929
Tolstoi Cliffs	1,495	1,530	1,637	1,783	1,571	1,447
Zapadni Reef	1,868	1,821	1,465	1,320	1,091	833
Polovina Cliffs	1,878	1,803	1,754	1,540	1,411	1,289
Ardiguen	614	572	498	575	565	437
Lukanin	2,579	2,514	2,299	2,453	2,020	1,841
Little Polovina	1,274	1,108	1,142	1,067	941	918
Sivutch	2,685	2,832	2,623	2,923	2,705	2,565
Polovina	2,983	3,820	4,458	4,472	3,691	3,320
Gorbatch Cliffs	.....	891	727	666	481	361
Morjovi (part)	1,493	1,265	1,185	993	831	696
Vostochni (part)	.....	3,207	3,005	2,855	2,312	1,793
Total	21,814	25,890	25,025	24,774	21,308	18,648
ST. GEORGE.						
North	5,745	4,503	4,895	4,662	4,385	4,189
Staraya Artel	2,754	2,346	2,277	2,626	2,416	2,162
Little East	1,065	847	762	683	546	415
East Reef	.....	787	915	741	667	653
East	3,047	2,075	2,082	2,473	2,336	2,746
Zapadni	5,342	4,113	3,899	3,462	3,233	2,787
Total	17,953	14,671	14,830	14,647	13,583	12,952
RECAPITULATION.						
St. Paul Island	21,814	25,890	25,025	24,774	21,308	18,648
St. George Island	17,953	14,671	14,830	14,647	13,583	12,952
Total	39,767	40,561	39,855	39,421	34,891	31,600

[1] These figures and the greater part of those which follow have been compiled from the records of the agents, and I am under special obligation to Mr. James Judge for copying them for me.—G. A. C.

Actual counts of harems in the height of breeding season, 1899 to 1909.

Islands and rookeries.	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
ST. PAUL.											
Kitovi	135	180	135	97	74	69	54	40	46	42	47
Amphitheater	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	12	12	7	9	6	8
Lagoon	101	82	67	37	26	24	23	21	15	13	12
Polovina Cliffs	62	95	84	61	52	40	36	26	24	24	23
Zapadni Reef	95	102	94	66	44	46	30	14	10	10	11
Lukanin	135	118	99	78	56	51	43	36	34	44	39
Tolstoi	342	357	231	172	160	149	136	112	99	88	87
Tolstoi Cliffs	.....	.....	63	47	44	38	35	32	30	20	25
Zapadni	447	424	373	319	250	250	179	162	155	148	147
Little Zapadni	226	177	156	125	105	100	78	78	68	64	62
Gorbatch	326	288	242	196	177	151	122	109	105	103	118
Gorbatch Cliffs	.....	.....	19	20	22	12	10	7	3	3	2
Ardiguen	31	27	25	16	17	15	9	14	11	8	11
Reef	451	417	430	286	293	286	261	201	216	200	184
Sivutch	102	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61
Polovina	147	92	152	124	85	72	53	38	33	36	42
Little Polovina	31	29	44	28	25	22	12	12	14	16	19
Northeast Point	1,062	1,045	946	709	539	454	362	296	247	237	229
Total	3,693	[1]3,433	[1]3,160	[1]2,381	[1]1,982	[1]1,791	[1]1,455	[1]1,205	[1]1,119	[1]1,062	1,127

[1] Incomplete.

Actual counts of harems in the height of breeding season, 1899 to 1909—Continued.

Islands and rookeries.	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
ST. GEORGE.											
North	243	188	176	164	139	128	104	78	81	94	106
Little East	57	.....	26	21	17	18	16	8	7	5	4
East	146	99	.....	.....	.....	50	47	34	32	41	43
Zapadni	166	191	.....	.....	.....	56	45	34	28	40	43
Staraya Artel	67	61	45	.....	.....	39	29	26	26	41	42
East Reef	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	20	17	16	14	20	22
Total	679	[1] 529	[1] 247	[1] 185	[1] 156	311	258	196	188	241	260
RECAPITULATION.											
St. Paul Island	3,693	[1] 3,433	[1] 3,160	[1] 2,381	[1] 1,982	[1] 1,791	[1] 1,455	[1] 1,205	[1] 1,119	[1] 1,062	1,127
St. George Island	679	[1] 529	[1] 247	[1] 185	[1] 156	311	258	196	188	241	260
Total	4,372	[1] 3,962	[1] 3,407	[1] 2,566	[1] 2,138	[1] 2,102	[1] 1,713	[1] 1,401	[1] 1,307	[1] 1,303	1,387

[1] Incomplete.

Idle and half bulls on breeding grounds at height of season, 1903–1909.

Islands and rookeries.	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
ST. PAUL.							
Lukanin	12	14	4	4	7	6	18
Kitovi	26	11	5	7	16	28	45
Lagoon	4	6	3	3	2	2	4
Tolstoi Cliffs	11	7	3	3	6	2	5
Tolstoi	46	20	7	.....	22	18	27
Zapadni Reef	13	8	2	.....	3	3	2
Little Zapadni	49	10	6	3	7	8	22
Zapadni	80	35	28	10	28	15	48
Gorbatch	19	16	8	4	18	15	48
Reef	46	32	19	18	39	35	67
Ardiguen	2	1	.....	.....	.....	1	2
Northeast Point	95	40	27	19	59	57	71
Little Polovina	5	4	.....	1	5	7	3
Polovina Cliffs	3	6	1	4	7	.....	1
Polovina	7	22	6	4	16	8	18
Sivutch[1]	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Total	418	232	119	80	235	205	385
ST. GEORGE.							
North	.....	13	8	6	11	21	33
East	.....	20	7	7	10	16	43
Little East	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Staraya Artel	.....	14	4	2	6	11	17
Zapadni	.....	14	3	6	6	12	35
Total	.....	62	22	21	33	61	128
RECAPITULATION.							
St. Paul Island	418	232	119	80	235	205	385
St. George Island	.....	62	22	21	33	61	128
Total	418	294	141	101	268	266	513

[1] Not counted.

Female pup seals branded, 1896 to 1903.

Islands and rookeries.	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
ST. PAUL.								
Lukanin	124	1,367	44	125	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kitovi	191	600	25	150	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tolstoi	.....	500	786	701	1,071	1,551	608	.....
Zapadni	.....	600	505	420	.....	826	.....	.....
Reef and Gorbatch	.....	2,304	1,003	795	615	1,796	539	274
Polovina	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	.....	.....	.....
Total	315	5,371	2,363	2,191	1,708	4,173	1,147	274
ST. GEORGE.								
North	62	443						
Staraya Artel	.....	404						
Zapadni	.....	677	.....	1,625	219	686	1,326	.....
East	.....	235						
Little East	.....	121						
Total	62	1,880	.....	1,625	219	686	1,326	.....
RECAPITULATION.								
St. Paul Island	315	5,371	2,363	2,191	1,708	4,173	1,147	274
St. George Island	62	1,880	.....	1,625	219	686	1,326	.....
Total	377	7,251	2,363	3,816	1,927	4,859	2,473	274

Table of weights of sealskins as taken on St. Paul Island, 1904 to 1909, inclusive.

Weight.	1904	1905	1907	1908	1909
Pounds.					
3¾	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
4	5	17	3	5	.....
4¼	6	33	2	17	1
4½	32	106	15	13	2
4¾	72	139	2	3	13
5	233	203	233	541	493
5¼	286	311	375	524	438
5½	776	1,678	615	951	903
5¾	741	1,711	1,066	1,109	859
6	951	1,712	1,278	1,276	1,373
6¼	754	1,271	1,316	1,051	946
6½	949	1,465	1,579	1,577	1,376
6¾	731	1,103	1,370	1,079	774
7	697	968	1,170	1,089	1,045
7¼	512	583	904	801	595
7½	455	609	852	894	779
7¾	280	361	554	489	359
8	318	270	283	451	424
8¼	147	173	199	313	195
8½	130	152	175	249	389
8¾	82	185	2	.....	9
9	80	91	3	.....	7
9¼	53	40	2	.....	.....
9½	35	41	.....	.....	.....
9¾	19	22	3	3	.....
10	25	27	1	.....	1
10¼	10	8	.....	.....	.....
10½	14	13	1	1	1
10¾	4	13	.....	.....	.....
11	9	9	.....	1	.....
11¼	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
11½	2	1	.....	.....	.....
11¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12½	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
14½	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

1906 not taken.

Statistics of killings,[1] *St. Paul Island, 1909.*

Date.	Rookeries.	Animals killed.	Animals dismissed.			Total. driven.	Per cent killed.
			Large.	Small.	Branded.		
June 28	Tolstoi	101	73	10	.....	184	54
29	Reef	179	117	2	150	448	39
July 2	Northeast Point	455	71	70	199	795	57
5	Zapadni	200	33	9	44	286	69
6	Reef and Gorbatch	505	81	16	47	649	77
6	Tolstoi	181	31	43	13	268	67
7	Polovina	77	35	8	3	123	62
8	Northeast Point	617	47	89	53	806	75
10	Zapadni	279	23	49	17	368	76
11	Reef and Gorbatch	289	12	25	27	353	81
11	Tolstoi	129	4	23	7	163	79
13	Polovina	34	20	4	4	62	54
14	Northeast Point	207	14	64	29	314	65
15	Gorbatch and Reef	251	8	74	53	386	65
15	Tolstoi and Lukanin	114	5	12	21	152	75
16	Zapadni	276	14	85	77	452	61
19	Northeast Point	718	27	190	131	1,066	67
19	Polovina	34	8	1	6	49	69
20	Reef and Gorbatch	588	35	80	123	826	71
20	Tolstoi	43	1	4	7	55	78
21	Zapadni	331	21	38	62	452	73
23	Northeast Point	475	48	53	136	712	66
23	Polovina	32	15	.....	9	56	57
24	Reef and Gorbatch	685	81	40	135	941	72
25	Zapadni	245	11	22	32	310	79
27	Northeast Point	187	58	3	107	355	52
27	Polovina	16	17	.....	5	38	42
28	Reef and Gorbatch	453	26	18	87	584	77
30	Zapadni	585	38	39	75	737	79
31	Reef and Gorbatch	660	81	21	101	863	76
31	Polovina	19	7	.....	7	33	57
31	Zapadni	41	14	3	22	80	51
31	Gorbatch	62	.....	.....	.....	62	100
31	Kitovi and Lukanin	110	34	.....	36	170	64
31	Northeast Point	330	75	15	100	520	63
	Total	9,508	1,185	1,110	1,925	13,718	69

[1] For comparison with similar figures for 1897 to follow.

Statistics of killings,[1] *St. Paul Island, 1897.*

Date.	Rookeries.	Animals killed.	Animals dismissed.		Per cent killed.
			Large.	Small.	
June 15	Reef	492	144	119	65
18	Zapadni	316	130	26	67
23	Tolstoi, Reef, and Lukanin	708	556	184	48
26	Tolstoi	1,098	402	214	64
30	Northeast Point	790	376	214	57
July 1	.....do	703	288	224	57
2	Lukanin	208	107	90	53
5	Reef and Zoltoi	703	229	175	63
6	Tolstoi	1,230	301	306	67
8	Northeast Point	1,713	355	551	65
9	Polovina	456	97	115	68
12	Reef and Lukanin	804	140	638	50
14	Northeast Point	1,249	216	661	58
16	Zapadni	886	391	586	53
17	Tolstoi	297	180	412	66
19	Lukanin and Reef	988	377	1,174	39
22	Northeast Point	1,322	500	2,047	34
23	Polovina	274	161	698	24
24	Lukanin and Reef	526	352	1,380	23
26	Zapadni	514	491	890	27
27	Tolstoi	199	221	545	20
29	Northeast Point	268	298	1,114	16
30	.....do	276	383	708	20
31	Polovina	108	118	456	16
Aug. 2	Reef and Lukanin	418	350	1,440	19
5	Tolstoi	101	159	376	15
7	Reef	172	200	486	20
	Total	16,819	7,522	15,829	44

[1] Quoted from second preliminary report, 1897.

Appendix II.

Field notes of fur-seal investigations, 1909.

June 25.—At the office of the American consul at Victoria, I learned that 3 Canadian vessels only had cleared for the northwest coast sealing. These were as follows:

Vessel.	Master.	Tonnage.	Date.
Jessie	Monro	48	Jan. 11
Pescawha	Balcon	98	Feb. 11
Bayard	Blacksted	67	Mar. 29

The first two of these vessels had been reported off the California coast on April 5 with 75 and 61 skins, respectively. The last vessel was reported in early May as having a catch of 438 skins.

These vessels were equipped by parties outside the Victoria Sealing Co., which it was understood would send out no vessels this season.

It was reported that two other vessels had taken out licenses to engage in sea-otter hunting in the closed season—May-July—and in seal hunting in Bering Sea after August 1. These were: *Vera*, Heater, master, 60 tons, cleared April 17; *Eva Marie*, Jacobson, master, 77 tons, cleared.

The entire sealing fleet of the Victoria combination lies anchored in Victoria Harbor probably awaiting indemnity when pelagic sealing is abolished.

April 27.—I learned at the office of the American consul also that the sealing schooner *Agnes G. Donohue*, Capt. Balcon, had landed in April at Halifax, Nova Scotia, 4,014 sealskins taken off Cape Town, South Africa.

The following data was obtained also regarding the pelagic catch for the season of 1908:

Indian canoe catch	502	
British Columbia coast	1,282	
		1,784
Outside area of award		893
Bering Sea catch		2,277
Total		4,954

Nine vessels were engaged in sealing during the season.

I saw on exhibition in the natural-history museum at Victoria a branded female fur-seal skin taken by pelagic sealers. The brand showed evidence of perfect healing and, covering a large area in the best part of the skin, effectively destroyed its value. It was evidently the skin of one of the 6 adult females branded on St. George Island in 1896. This skin, particularly on account of its place of exhibition, seemed to me a very forceful example of the deterrent influence which branding might have been exerting at the present time on pelagic sealing had the experiments inaugurated in 1896 been seriously carried out. This fact impressed me especially because both in Seattle and in Victoria, in conversation with people interested in fur-seal matters, I learned that the experiments in branding had been abandoned as failures.

July 7.—In the ice off Nome, which delayed the *Victoria* 24 hours, a number of hair seals were seen and two herds of walrus; one of the latter, numbering 8 or 10, remained on the iceberg until the vessel's prow almost touched it, taking slowly to the water; the other, a larger herd numbering 40 to 50, was at a distance of a fourth of a mile. A number of the animals roused up and 2 or 3 went into the water, but most of them paid no heed to the vessel. They were sleeping in a compact mass not unlike a herd of sea lions.

July 11.—The first seal seen was at about 8 o'clock this morning. The *Rush* was then within about 40 miles of St. Paul Island, approaching from the northward. A second seal was seen at 10 and a third at 11, land being then visible. No other seals were seen until the vessel came into close proximity to the island between Walrus Island and Northeast Point. From this point two sealing schooners were visible to the east about 10 miles offshore. The masts of a large number of other schooners were visible to the southwest between Otter Island and Southwest Point. The revenue cutter *Manning* was steaming about among them and afterwards reported boarding 11 of them during the afternoon.

July 12.—In company with Mr. Judge I visited Gorbatch and Reef rookeries in the morning. There are no seals on Zoltoi; no harem at station 25 nor near it. The idle

bulls which lined the rear of the cliff portion of Gorbatch and the cinder slope in 1896–97 were wanting. A small pod of bachelors were hauled out on the cinder slope, there being a break in the line of harems at this point.

There were no hair seals at the point and no sea lions. Ardiguen rookery has no seals whatever in the "slide." The masses on Reef rookery are barely recognizable. The breaks, or bachelor runways, are greatly widened; bachelors only haul through two of them. A section of Reef, the end toward East Landing, has disappeared, as has the beginning of Gorbatch. The general appearance of these two rookeries, as compared with their condition in 1896–97, is that of a skeleton or outline.

A count of cows and harems on the Amphitheater of Kitovi was made as follows:

Harem 1, 48 cows; harem 2, 1 cow; harem 3, 1 cow; harem 4, 5 cows; harem 5, 45 cows; harem 6, 6 cows; harem 7, 14 cows; harem 8, 7 cows; total, 127 cows.

On July 13, 1897, this section of Kitovi rookery, isolated by natural boundaries, contained 46 harems and 654 cows. There was one idle bull.

Capt. O'Malley of the *Manning* called at the Government house in the afternoon, leaving the following statement of the results of boarding the Japanese schooners yesterday:

Vessel.	Home port.	Master.	Catch.
Toyei Maru	Shimasato	Meatsu	644
Nitto Maru	Miyako Lekichiu	Tokameatsu	310
Hoko Maru	Tokyo	Bakakebala	62
Shimushu Maru	do	Shiono	62
Domei Maru	Hokadate	Myshio	90
Chitose Maru	do	Cohashi	84
Eiun Maru, 2	Miyado	Chi	148
Koeiyi Maru	Gogoshima	Vuneseaku	39
Tokai Maru	Akice	Arakawa	169
Koyi Maru	Isihama	Mauo	160
Chitosd Maru, 2	Oshihama	Meura	53
Too Maru, 2	Shirota	Yoshida	47
Boso Maru, 2	Tateyamnito	Yamanako	96

This total of 1,964 skins, increased by catches of other vessels not boarded by the *Manning*, gives a total reported catch for the Japanese fleet to date of 2,035 skins. There are 14 schooners in all at present about the island. Each vessel has from 7 to 10 boats; each boat carries two hunters using shotguns loaded with buckshot and two men, making four in all, to manage the boat. Capt. O'Malley speaks of 70 of these boats as being visible at one time from the cutter and the booming of their guns as incessant.

On Kitovi rookery, in charge of a harem of 25 cows, is a bull bearing a brand across his back just forward of the hips. He must have been mistaken for a female pup at the time of branding. This is the fifth season that he has held a harem here. The only evidence of age is shown in his teeth, which are worn or broken. They might have been broken in biting a club on the killing field.

There are five badly torn cows on Lukanin rookery. The bulls on the rookeries show the usual wounds at the angle of the foreflipper and on the breast. There is less actual fighting at this date than in 1896–97, but there is evidence of fighting earlier in the season. The quieter condition at present is due to the absence of idle bulls. There is a branded cow under Lukanin Hill, the brand similar to that of the bull just mentioned. The brand is perfect, completely arching the back, a clear, smooth mark an inch in width.

There are no harems at all this season under the cliffs and at the foot of the slope reaching toward the sand beach. The rookery is confined to the foot of the hill slope and the beach below the cliff at the junction with Kitovi.

The cows on the main portion of Tolstoi are confined to the bowlder beach and do not extend into the sand flat. One dead cow and two dead pups are visible at the edge of the harems. The cow has been dead some time. It would not be possible to get either cow or pups without driving off the cows. In a single harem on Tolstoi are three branded cows, the brands similar to those of the cow on Lukanin and the bull on Kitovi. Mr. Judge informs me that this form of brand was used for several years prior to 1902, when branding was discontinued.

Under Tolstoi Cliffs are some large harems. There are no idle bulls here. Four harems contain 235 cows; another harem contains 75 cows. The absence of the mass of idle bulls with which we were familiar in 1896-97 will probably cause a diminution of small harems formed by capture; and on rookeries where the breeding space is limited, as it is on Ardiguen and Tolstoi Cliffs, the general size of harem will be increased.

In the afternoon the count of cows and harems was made on Lagoon rookery in company with Mr. Judge, as follows:

Harem 1, 23 cows; harems 2 and 3, 103 cows; harem 4, 6 cows; harem 5, 1 cow; harem 6, 2 cows; harem 7, 1 cow; harem 8, 8 cows; harem 9, 64 cows; harem 10, 65 cows; harem 11, 1 cow; harem 12, 7 cows; total, 281 cows.

There are three idle bulls on this rookery. It seems probable that the single-cow harems represent other idle bulls which have established harems by capture. There was one young bull of the class to which the agents have given the appropriate name of "quitter," i. e., a bull that will not stand his ground when a man approaches, but takes to the water. Another branded cow was seen on this rookery.

Lagoon rookery is a mere shadow. On this day in 1897 it had 115 harems and 1,319 cows.

July 13.—I made a count of cows and harems on Kitovi rookery this morning, as follows: 6, 3, 1, 4, 4, 5, 73, 18, 28, 8, 4, 33, 22, 42, 28, 57, 1, 2, 8, 2, 14, 5, 8, 32, 36, 1, 2, 40, 70, 4, 3, 1, 28, 33, 1, 9, 15, 13, 2, 13, 1, 1, 43, 28, 21, 1, 1, 1, 38, 1, 3, 47, 4, 1, 14, 9; total harems, 55; cows, 892.

In counting here I did not frighten off a single cow, and there are no bachelors on this rookery to be disturbed. It is evident that the company representatives look with disfavor on the work of rookery inspection as likely to frighten off the bachelor seals and interfere with the securing of the quota. It is evident that the Government agents look upon it as a regrettable necessity, because of the possibility of frightening the breeding seals and possibly throwing them in the way of the sealers.

This being the case, it is hard to understand why the rocks at the rear of the rookeries have not been constructed into blinds, behind which the seals could be approached without disturbance. A few barriers of rocks at points difficult of approach would overcome the necessity of disturbance.

One branded cow was seen. There are no harems on the village side of Kitovi Point. The last eight harems cover the Amphitheater, which has this morning 113 cows, as against 127 yesterday. There are 14 idle bulls and 31 young bulls of the class known as "quitters."

This rookery, except for the shrinkage at the village end and the thinning out on the Amphitheater, does not show reduction so visibly as Lagoon or the rookeries on Reef Peninsula. The central portion is covered with a line of harems, but it is very much scattered. The count discloses the reduction, however, for in 1897 there were on this rookery 179 harems and 2,436 cows on this date.

A tentative count of harems was made on Lukanin—29—but it will be repeated more carefully. One harem has formed beyond the hill since our last visit. There are two branded cows where one was seen yesterday.

As a drive and killing was to be made at Northeast Point, I accompanied the party to look over the rookeries there and to secure the count of harems after the drive had been made.

On the way up a small drive was secured at Polovina—35 seals—this rookery yielding, as was noted also in 1896–97, but a small supply of killable seals.

The officers of the revenue cutter *Bear* have been engaged in erecting signals, consisting of poles with flags of colored bunting at various points on the northern end of the island, for use in locating soundings. One of these had been erected beside the watch house at Halfway Point. Mr. Redpath, of the company, protested against this work, as involving disturbance of the seals, ascribing the small number of seals from Polovina to their having been driven off on Saturday when the signal was put up.

In the afternoon I walked to Hutchinson Hill with Mr. Lembkey. The mass of seals below this hill is greatly reduced. It is the most conspicuous example of shrinkage yet seen. There are surprisingly few bulls in the mass; they hold places in the outer edge. Fifteen idle bulls lie back of the mass, and there are four isolated harems. The few bulls can not hold the cows they now control when they begin to come in heat, and doubtless the idle bulls here will in due time get harems.

There is an unusually large number of seals in the water off the rookery front. This belt of playing, sleeping seals has been less conspicuous at the village rookeries this season than it was in 1896–97.

At the right of Hutchinson Hill is a pod of about 200 bachelors. The bachelors haul only at this point and one other to the southwest of Hutchinson Hill.

July 14.—While the killing was in progress I made a count of the harems on the Northeast Point rookeries, assisted by Mr. Judge. Beginning at the southernmost point by Cross Hill, the first two patches, on which Mr. Lucas and Dr. Stejneger in 1896 found 151 harems, are entirely gone. The third patch of about 70 harems has now only 9. It was in this patch that the raid by Japanese sealers was made in 1906 which resulted in the killing of 200 female seals. The little cove in which the raid occurred contains absolutely no seal life to-day. The line of harems up to the angle of Hutchinson Hill is thin and scattered, with numerous breaks. All told there are 68 harems.

The mass under the hill has only 51 harems; 15 are on the flat, the rest on the bowlder beach. Beyond the hill and to the point are more scattering harems, 41 in all. The whole of Vostochni rookery gives only 184 harems. This breeding ground in 1897 was the largest on the island, containing 910 harems.

There are 22 idle bulls and 33 young bulls.

A small, sickly looking pup was killed for investigation as to the parasite *uncinaria*. No evidence of the worm was found, and the pup was plainly suffering from starvation. It had received very little nourishment from its mother, and the more conspicuous marks of starvation—disproportionately large head, grayish whiskers, great emaciation—were not so distinct as in the older pups whose starvation was observed in 1896. A pup whose mother is killed at her first or second trip to sea will naturally die much quicker than one who has been nourished for a month or six weeks.

It is plain that starvation is already at work on the rookeries and that this cause of death will obscure the work of the worm. The first Japanese sealer for the season was seen in Bering Sea on June 29, and sealing has been in progress ever since the 1st of July. One of the boats of the schooner *Tenyu Maru*, seized by the *Perry* about July 10, contained a female seal with an unborn pup; another boat had a mother seal in milk.

Morjovi rookery lies on the east side of the point. The seal harems still mingle with the sea-lion harems on the extreme point. The large mass of seals beside Walrus Bight contains only 20 harems. There are only 3 harems on the north side of Sea Lion Neck and none on the south side. There were 25 harems and 327 cows here in 1896. This is the end of the rookery. The section of this rookery, opposite Webster House, where Dr. Stejneger and Mr. Lucas counted 87 harems in 1896, has entirely disappeared. The entire rookery numbers 45 harems, as against 233 in 1897.

The sea-lion rookery has disappeared from Sea Lion Neck. Mr. Judge says there have been no sea lions here since 1900. The natives seem to have made a very large killing of sea lions this spring, 80 or thereabouts. The killing of seals having been completed, they are at work cleaning and stretching the sea-lion skins.

The killing from Northeast Point rookeries this morning gave only 207 skins. The great reduction in the breeding seals for these rookeries is evidently and naturally accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the killable seals. A killing on this same date in 1897 gave 1,249 skins. The killing yields one-sixth; the breeding grounds, one-fifth.

The revenue cutter *Manning* was anchored off the east side of the point yesterday afternoon. This morning she is anchored off the west side.

The great reduction in the Northeast Point rookeries seems to be accounted for by the fact that the Japanese fleet in the season of 1908 concentrated off these rookeries making it their principal sealing ground, just as during the present season they are concentrating their efforts to the southwest on the course of the seals frequenting Reef, Tolstoi, and Zapadni rookeries. The sealing off Northeast Point was particularly destructive because this point projects into the sea and can be reached throughout its entire length from the 3-mile limit. In a word, the 3-mile limit here means 3 miles from the shore at every point. At the southwest the 3-mile line is taken from Otter Island on the south and Southwest Point on the north, which means that since Otter Island is 7 miles off Reef, and Tolstoi and Zapadni are within the curve of English Bay, a vessel can not approach much nearer than 6 or 7 miles of the shore front of these rookeries.

On a rocky shelf to the west of Hutchinson Hill a pod of 200 bachelors were seen which should have been in the drive of this morning but which could not have been reached at the point where they were hauled. A heavy surf from the west would drive them from this point and they will probably appear in other drives from the regular hauling grounds.

Northeast Point rookeries show the same condition as other rookeries hitherto observed, namely, the presence of many young bulls holding harems. These bulls are plainly fit in all respects for harem duty and are accepted by their neighbors who are older and stronger. At the approach of a man, however, they are timid and if pressed too closely will abandon their harems and take to the water, returning when the man has passed by. These bulls could not have held harems in1896–97 because of the excess of idle bulls.

In the runway at the angle of Hutchinson Hill from which the principal drive of bachelors was made this morning was a small group of pups. They were at a considerable distance from other breeding seals and probably mark an isolated harem, the position being within the regular breeding area in earlier years, which had been gathered up with the drive this morning. This seems to illustrate the way in which cows come to be accidentally included in the drives. The bachelors tend to haul as close to the breeding seals as the bulls will permit and an isolated harem offers no obstacle to them.

The cows on the Northeast Point rookeries show a greater tendency to stampede than do the cows on the rookeries at the village end, the natural inference being that the latter are more accustomed to the sight of men.

The main body of bulls seem just as fierce and aggressive as ever both in their attacks on an intruder and on one another. They make frantic and generally successful efforts to restrain their harems when these show a tendency to stampede. They are cut and gashed in a way that suggests serious fighting even with the diminished idle-bull class. The 15 idle bulls on the flat under Hutchinson Hill stood their ground, requiring us to make our way about them. In a word, there is no evidence of impotency, lethargy, somnolence, or debility on the part of the bulls as a result of the lessening of the struggle for existence due to the absence of idle bulls. The real struggle for existence among the bulls is that which they encounter in the harsh winter at sea. The present condition of the rookeries which admits of the young bulls coming to harem service in the time of their greatest activity and aggressiveness doubtless marks a distinct gain to the breeding herd.

On the return trip from Northeast Point a count of harems was made on the Polovina rookeries. Little Polovina has 19 harems. It shows less decline than any breeding ground I have yet seen. It had 39 harems in 1897. There were two idle bulls and one young bull.

The cliff portion of Polovina shows more reduction and is much scattered and broken. There are 23 harems, where we found 61 in 1897.

The main rookery shows most decline—42 harems, where in 1897 there were 143. There are three idle bulls and 15 young bulls. The massed portion of this rookery has shrunk away to a small triangular patch containing only three or four bulls. The portion which occupies the bowlder beach and the edge of the reef contains practically all the seals.

July 15.—A drive was made this morning from Reef, Gorbatch, Lukanin, and Tolstoi rookeries, and I attended the killing. The clubbing of the seals was done by Messrs. Redpath, Judge, Lembkey, and Proctor. The only native doing any clubbing was Simion Melovidof.

The seals driven this morning from Lukanin rookery are the first in several years, the bachelors having seemingly abandoned this hauling ground. In 1896–97 it was recognized as the nursery of little bachelors, the number of killable seals being small in proportion. Of the 67 animals driven from this rookery, 51 were killed, 16 rejected; of those rejected, 3 were too large, 13 too small.

Tolstoi has also practically ceased to be a source of killable seals. The drive this morning numbered only 81, of which 59 were killed.

Of the 386 driven from Reef and Gorbatch, 261 were killed. The percentage of animals killed in this morning's drive is nearly 69. If we add to the number killed the 74 animals of killable size which were rejected because branded as a breeding reserve, the percentage of killable seals in the drive amounted to 81 per cent, leaving only 19 per cent of animals for the quota of next year.

It is plain that the size of skin taken this year is in its minimum much smaller than in 1896–97. This helps to account for that apparent contradiction which appears to exist between the condition of the breeding herd and the quota of killable seals. The breeding herd has apparently suffered a reduction of two-thirds to three-fourths its size in 12 years, and yet the company representatives are alarmed because they may not secure a quota of 15,000 skins, this figure being three-fifths of the quota of 1897. In other words, a quota of three-fifths is expected from a herd only one-third as large. If this quota is obtained, it will be at the expense of the quota of next year.

After the killing, a count of harems on Gorbatch and Reef rookeries was made. The former shows 120 harems, 22 idle bulls, and 26 young bulls; the latter has 184 harems, 13 idle and 54 young bulls. These rookeries had in 1897 respectively 308 and 454 harems.

One branded cow was seen on Gorbatch, and 2 on Reef. One of the cows on Reef had a half brand—on one side of back only, a form of brand which Mr. Judge says was used one season.

Ardiguen rookery was counted for cows as well as harems as follows:

Harem 1, 42 cows; harem 2, 32 cows; harem 3, 17 cows; harem 4, 1 cow; harem 5, 19 cows; harem 6, 12 cows; harem 7, 18 cows; harem 8, 29 cows; harem 9, 25 cows; harem 10, 6 cows; harem 11, 6 cows; total, 207 cows.

Gorbatch begins with 2 harems at rock No. 23. In 1897 it began at No. 26, and a large harem at No. 25 was made the subject of special study by Mr. Lucas. From No. 23 to No. 19 there is a break without harems. The harems occupy a single line with a long break at the angle of the cinder slope. A large harem, conspicuous in 1896 and 1897 because it had more than 100 cows, is absent from the western end.

Ardiguen rookery shows no harems in the "slide" where were located the 18 harems chosen for special study in 1896.

Reef rookery can be counted easily from the rear, the harems being practically confined to the bowlder beach, the masses being merely suggested by a single harem each extending on the flat above. In 1897 it was necessary to count the harems on the beach slope of this rookery from a boat offshore, the masses making it impossible to see the beach. The narrow bachelor runways have widened from feet to rods in distance. The absence of bachelors, moreover, leaves them and the hauling grounds behind them vacant.

Zoltoi sands and slope are no longer occupied as a hauling ground.

A count of harems and cows was made on Tolstoi Cliffs as follows: 9, 51, 17, 36, 70, 4, 48, 36, 5, 24, 93, 3, 33, 2, 15, 3, 120, 19, 22, 60, 3, 13, 2, 8, 2; harems, 25; cows, 698.

There were no idle bulls and only 1 young bull. This rookery occupies a narrow beach at the foot of steep cliffs. There is room only for the single line of harem masters. At this time in 1897 this rookery ground contained 98 harems and 1,286 cows. There has been here an abnormal reduction in harems. As there is no space in the rear or along the water front for idle and young bulls to find a location while waiting for an opportunity to acquire harems, this rookery has not received its share of the reserve bulls. This is apparently true also of Lagoon rookery and Ardiguen. They have no definite hauling grounds and apparently the young bulls do not seek these places as they do the more populous rookeries.

The main portion of Tolstoi rookery contains 87 harems. These are still practically confined to the bowlder beach at the foot of the sand flat, although there are 3 harems now on the western end of the flat and one at the eastern end, and the cows show a tendency to draw up on the slope at the west, there being 2 single cow harems. The harems on the beach have shrunk back fully 500 feet from the sands of English Bay end.

Three dead pups were found at the edge of the sand flat, 2 in one harem and all fairly fresh. They were greatly emaciated. There was no evidence of injury from the parasite, and death was plainly due to starvation. Two of the pups were very young and appeared not to have received much nourishment, their mothers doubtless being killed on their first trip to sea.

Starvation is making itself very evident among the pups; dead and dying pups from this cause are becoming very conspicuous on the breeding grounds even under the casual observation which it is possible to give the pups while the harem counts are being made.

A branded cow is seen on the western end of Tolstoi. This is in addition to the two already seen on this rookery. A second branded bull with the same brand as the one on Kitovi holds a harem on the extreme eastern end of Tolstoi.

The harems were counted on Lukanin—39 in number. There were 139 in 1897. There are 7 idle bulls and 11 young bulls. There were two branded cows in one harem on Lukanin, one of which may have been the branded cow previously seen here.

For the 87 harems now on Tolstoi there were 295 harems in 1897. We counted 14 idle and 13 young bulls.

I was desirous of looking over the Zapadni rookeries this afternoon before going to St. George, these being the only St. Paul rookeries I have not yet seen, but Mr. Redpath, representative of the North American Commercial Co., objected on the ground that it was the intention of the company to make a drive from Zapadni to-morrow. It appears that he ascribes the small results of the drive at Northeast Point yesterday to the fact that officers of the *Bear* had landed at the point and that the *Bear's* launch had made a circuit of the shore a day or two before the drive. As no bachelors are driven either from Little Zapadni or Zapadni Reef, I suggested limiting our observations to these rookeries, but this also was objected to and so I left the matter of counting the harems on the Zapadni rookeries to be made by the Government agents after the killing.

The company is behind its killings of last year at this season some 2,000 skins and in fear that it will not be able to secure the full quota it is evidently willing to make any visiting of the rookeries a ground of explanation for the shortage. The obvious reason of the diminished herd does not seem to have any bearing to the company on the difficulty of getting the quota.

In the discussion of these matters it became apparent that the company is limited in its killing to the date of July 31. This limitation was a surprise to me, as the killings in 1896 and 1897 were continued as late as August 10. It is an unfortunate provision, as it is likely to lead to close and severe driving toward the end. If, as the company seems to feel, the weather conditions have been unfavorable to the hauling of the seals, or they have been frightened off, it ought to be possible for the Government representatives to extend somewhat the time limit. This, however, they seem not to have the power to do.

I went on board the *Perry* in the evening and was transferred to the *Manning* at Northeast Point for transportation in the morning to St. George Island.

July 16.—I was landed at St. George at 10 o'clock, no landing being possible earlier in the morning. Mr. Chichester was absent at Zapadni rookery, where a killing was being made. He returned at noon reporting 32 skins as a result of the killing.

I visited Little East and East rookeries in the afternoon in company with Maj. Clark. Little East rookery has 4 harems with 71 cows present. Ten cows occupy a position which suggests that they belong to a fifth harem and Maj. Clark says a fifth bull has been present on this rookery. There are no idle or young bulls here. There were 46 harems and 497 cows on this rookery in 1897.

The persistence of this small rookery would seem to show a definite sense of locality which brings the animals back to the place where they were born or where they first established their breeding home; otherwise it would seem that so small a body of seals as this rookery now represents would be merged into the larger body on East rookery a mile below.

The beach or reef portion of East rookery is separated from the main breeding ground by a long break, a widening of the narrow runway through which the bachelors hauled out in 1896–97. A count of this portion by harems and individuals is as follows: 24, 4, 47, 51, 6, 2, 1, 2, 22, 4, 30, 4, 16, 29, 22, 48, 20, 22, 4, 1, 35, 2; harems, 22; cows, 387.

The main portion of East rookery lies at the foot of the cliff at the southern end. There are 43 harems here so scattered and intermingled that they can not be counted for individual cows as was done in 1897. There are 14 idle and 29 young bulls on this rookery. For the 65 harems found this season on East rookery there were 128 in 1897.

Five branded cows in all were seen on East rookery. One of these bore three cross bands on the back, which would seem to place the date of her branding earlier than that of any other of the brandings observed. In fact, if there was a cross bar through the middle of the brands it would be possible to identify this cow with those branded in 1896, and such a cross bar may have been omitted in this case or made so faintly as to have left no trace.

A considerable body of these branded cows are visible on the rookeries. They seem to indicate conclusively the success and practicability of branding, and there are enough of them to throw definite light upon the question of the age of the animals were it not for the fact that for at least three years prior to the cessation of branding the same mark was used without variation. Thus the absence of these animals will mean only that a minimum age is established. If, for example, one of these cows were known to have disappeared between the seasons of 1910 and 1911, it could be inferred that her age could not have been less than 10 years, although it might be 13, as the same brand was used for at least three years prior to 1902.

It is to be regretted that this work of branding was discontinued. The herd has in recent years become so small that it would have been possible to apply it to the entire female birth rate, and this could not help having a deterrent influence on pelagic sealing.

July 17.—I walked to Zapadni rookery and made a count of harems with Mr. Chichester. The part of this rookery which in 1896–97 extended along the beach toward the watchhouse has entirely disappeared. The portion under the cliff has also shrunk to a few harems. The rookery occupies only a portion—to the top of the first bench—of the hill slope, numbering 43 harems. There are 13 idle and 22 young bulls.

Zapadni rookery of St. George shows a heavier decline than any of the other rookeries of this island with the exception of Little East. It corresponds in a way to the Reef rookeries on St. Paul and it faces, and presumably its seals go in the same direction, southwest, to feed.

Contrary to our usual experience with the young bull, a gray one not over 6 years old not only held a harem of three cows in a territory backed by idle bulls, but refused to yield ground to us in our efforts to reach a favorable observation point. In addition to his youth the bull was handicapped by a stiff foreflipper.

Staraya Artel rookery has 42 harems. The count for this rookery in 1897 gave 57 harems. Looking at the rookery to-day it seems undiminished, although there is some evidence of shrinkage at the upper end and in its extension on the bowlder beach at the foot of the hill.

There are 10 idle and 7 young bulls on this rookery and the idle bulls are unusually fierce and stubborn. Two branded cows were seen on this rookery.

North rookery gives 106 harems to-day. There were 214 harems on this rookery for this date in 1897 and 196 at the earlier date of July 8. This rookery, then, seems to fall into a special class with Staraya Artel and East rookeries, showing less reduction than any of the other rookeries. It may be noted that these rookeries face toward the northeast and the principal sealing grounds are toward the southwest.

It is evident also that the pelagic sealers pay little attention to St. George, clinging to St. Paul, where the main herd is. No Japanese sealers have been reported off St. George this season, so far.

Eleven branded cows and one branded bull are seen on North rookery. The brands are the same as those seen on St. Paul. The bull here makes the third with this brand, all three evidently having been mistaken for female pups when the branding was done in 1902 or earlier.

North rookery shows the same effects of scattering and thinning out visible on other rookeries which occupy short rocky slopes and limited beaches at the foot of cliffs. There is a slight shrinkage at the western end and numerous breaks, but the harems still mark in a general way the full length of the rookery.

After making the tramp of 18 miles or more over a rocky and uncertain trail, a good part of the way without any trail at all, necessary to make this inspection of the rookeries of St. George, one wonders why the spare time of the natives on the islands should not be utilized to build suitable roads and trails to the rookeries.

As the landing showed evidence of breaking up I went on board the *Manning* in the evening.

July 18.—At 7 o'clock we sailed for St. Paul. At 11 o'clock, and when within 10 or 12 miles of St. Paul, we came abreast of two Japanese sealing schooners at anchor. Ten small boats, each with four men in them, were out patrolling the space between the island and the vessels. The day was calm and unusually clear. No shots were heard and no seals were seen by us, but the boats were so disposed as to cover a wide expanse of water in which every seal showing its head would come within the range of a gun. Later in the day the boats from these vessels were visible from the island and the booming of their guns was distinctly heard.

I reached the village of St. Paul at 1 o'clock. The sealing force, accompanied by both agents, had gone to Northeast Point to make a killing the following day. The *Perry* was at anchor in Village Cove. Two of her officers came ashore in the course of the afternoon. It was unusually clear and St. George Island was visible from St. Paul. The boats from the Japanese schooners to the east of the island seemed at one time to be very close in, within the 3-mile limit. It seemed so also to the officers of the *Perry*, and the vessel was signaled to this effect. The officers returned as quickly as possible to the ship, which got under way and rounded Reef Peninsula, but when it reached the boats they were well outside. Perhaps they were outside all the time.

The incident, however, suggests certain things with regard to the patrol:

1. There should be wireless communication between the islands and the patrol vessels.

2. When a vessel is at anchor on the village side, its launch ought to be stationed at East Landing and vice versa. A launch going out from East Landing might have overhauled the boats. The time necessary to signal the vessel and for it to get under way, its smoke in getting up steam serving as a warning to the sealers, is too great to make pursuit by the cutter itself successful.

3. With both agents absent from the village overnight at Northeast Point, a situation occurring every five days through the killing season, there is suggested the possible wisdom of having an officer on the islands to give notice to and act in conjunction with the vessel offshore.

The heat of the afternoon sun undoubtedly made many animals enter the water, and the hunters, who were finding no seals in the morning as we passed, plainly had better luck later in the day, and the booming of their guns for four hours in the late afternoon and evening indicated that many seals were being taken. If every shot were fatal, the destruction would have been enormous, but in all likelihood each hunter shot at every animal he saw, using not merely one barrel but two on the same animal, as shown by the double shots with a short interval between.

This sort of shooting suggests the old discussion regarding the proportion of seals shot and recovered by hunters using guns. It will probably be found that this Japanese sealing is much more wasteful and destructive than its catch discloses, on account of the animals mortally wounded which escape temporarily or which sink before they can be recovered.

July 19.—On Kitovi rookery there are 96 bachelors on a flat rock below the harems in a position where they can not be driven. Any kind of a surf will, however, force them to abandon this position, and they will doubtless appear in one of the regular hauling grounds.

For purposes of comparison, I made a recount of the cows and harems on Kitovi rookery. They were as follows: 5, 1, 4, 5, 44, 13, 10, 11, 24, 13, 16, 18, 14, 26, 22, 1, 32, 16, 24, 10, 5, 10, 56, 2, 44, 1, 2, 43, 42, 1, 28, 10, 17, 37, 1, 13, 14, 12, 6, 18, 14, 13, 1, 27, 23, 3; harems, 46; cows, 754.

The Amphitheater counted separately has 9 harems and 144 cows, as follows: 34, 31, 3, 7, 38, 6, 6, 10, 9.

This gives for the entire rookery the same number of harems counted on the 13th and just 6 more cows. There are 7 idle bulls and 14 young bulls. One harem containing a single cow in an isolated position has 3 pups; another harem with 4 cows has 8 pups. One of the 3 pups is starving and nearly dead.

A bull on Lukanin was observed to perform two successful copulations within an hour.

Under the edge of Lukanin Hill are many thin pups evidently starving. These pups are restless and hungry. They are constantly calling and moving about from one cow to another, answering every cow that calls.

The clipping of the heads of the bachelors reserved for breeding purposes discloses the fact that many of these animals are hanging about the breeding grounds. A dozen or more of them are on the water front under Lukanin Hill. They do not enter the harems, but lie on the shore or on rocks awash with the tide. They are but little molested by the bulls.

The killing at Northeast Point to-day gave 718 skins and 34 skins were obtained at Halfway Point. The last killing at the point yielded only 207 skins. The natives had reported about 700 animals on the hauling grounds and it was supposed that the visit of officers of the *Bear* and the movements of that vessel's launch had frightened most of them into the water. The killing of to-day probably included these animals which have again hauled out.

July 20.—A killing was made this morning from the Reef, Lukanin, and Tolstoi. Of the 631 seals killed 41 were from Tolstoi. Touching the question of whether the killing at Northeast Point on the 14th was diminished by disturbance of the hauling grounds, it may be noted that the killing from Reef and Tolstoi on the 15th was also small. The following comparison may be noted:

	Seals.
Northeast Point, July 14	207
Reef, Lukanin, and Tolstoi, July 15	365
Northeast Point, July 19	718
Reef, Lukanin, and Tolstoi, July 20	631

There was no disturbance on the Reef or Tolstoi on or near the 15th, and it is probable that weather conditions was the real cause of the small killings on the 14th and 15th.

In the killing of the 19th at Northeast Point 67 per cent of the animals driven were killed; in the drive to-day from the Reef 72 per cent were killed. Of the 28 per cent exempted from killing only one-third, or something less than 10 per cent of the whole number driven, were small—that is, left over for the quota of next year.

Of the exempted seals 187 were of killable size, but had the shaved heads which marked them as reserved for breeding purposes. If we add these to the number of seals killed we find that the drive this morning contained 818 seals of killable size, or practically 93 per cent, the whole number driven being 881. This leaves only 7 per cent for the quota of next year.

For the year 1897 in a drive from Reef and Lukanin on July 19 (this is the 20th), for the 988 seals killed 1,174 small seals were exempted and 377 large ones. The latter went for breeding purposes; the former remained for the quota of 1898. The seals killed in the drive of July 19 in that year were 39 per cent of those driven. The percentage of seals killed to those driven to-day is 72.

To provide a definite reserve of male life for breeding purposes the agents tell me they drove up in the early part of the season, and before killing was begun by the company, 2,000 bachelor seals of 2 and 3 years of age and shaved their heads with sheep shears, thus marking them so that they can be identified by the clubbers and exempted on the killing field. These shaved heads constitute a large part of the animals turned back at each killing. It is to be noted that among those turned back without brand there are none which show evidence of the clipping of last season. It may be inferred, therefore, that the fur and water hair is replaced during the winter. The identification mark is not a permanent thing, but one designed to serve for the current killing season. To insure these animals exemption for breeding purposes next year they must be again shaved next June.

In the killing this morning it may be noted that 27 animals with shaved heads, designated as 3-year-olds, were released, but of the unbranded animals released only 5 are designated as 4-year-olds. It is only a supposititious case, but if we assume that twenty-seven 3-year-olds were exempted by the shaving of last season, here are only 5 that have successfully run the gauntlet of the second year.

In a word the marking of a 2 or 3 year old seal by a temporary mark which is obliterated by the following season, the animal still being killable as a 3 or 4 year old, is futile for the purpose of establishing a breeding reserve.

There is another criticism that may justly be brought against this method of marking; that is, clipping or shaving the head—it does not in any way impair the value of the

skin. Undoubtedly this is a provision to prevent loss through carelessness. If a clubber accidentally strikes a shaved seal its skin is as good as any other, and such accidents occur, although infrequently.

The criticism, however, lies in this: The skin is just as valuable to the pelagic sealer as if it were not marked. The shaving of the head is a good plan for identification by the clubber. It would be unwise to attempt to burn a brand on the seal at this point, but while the animal is caught for the purpose of shaving, a permanent burned brand should be placed on the back or shoulder which will mar the value of the skin to the pelagic sealer. If it mars the value of the skin also from the company's point of view, then greater care should be taken in clubbing the animals. The present plan puts a premium on carelessness, and an animal exempted this season is liable to be killed next season. The only way to prevent this is to shave the head of this year's 2-year-old next year as a 3-year-old, and again as a 4-year-old the third season; all of which is a useless waste of energy.

Mr. Judge reports as follows regarding the counts of harems made on July 16 at Zapadni while I was on St. George:

Zapadni Reef: Harems, 11; cows, 137; idle bull, 1; young bull, 1.

Little Zapadni: Harems, 62; idle bulls, 9; young bulls, 13.

Zapadni: Harems, 147; idle bulls, 20; young bulls, 28.

After the killing I walked to Reef Point in company with Capt. Jacobs (in command of the revenue-cutter fleet) and Capt. Berthof of the *Bear*.

For comparative purposes I made a recount of the cows and harems on Ardiguen rookery, as follows: 8, 28, 38, 9, 2, 2, 12, 18, 12, 15, 18, 8, 22, 32.

This is an increase of 3 harems and 17 cows over the count of July 15. The new harems are in charge of young bulls.

Capts. Jacobs and Berthof remained for lunch at the company's house, and in the course of the meal Mr. Redpath made a vigorous protest regarding the landing of the officers of the *Bear* at Northeast Point and the expedition of the vessel's launch about the shores of the point. Capt. Berthof explained that the trip of the launch was in accordance with his orders, shots having been heard across the point in the fog and the launch being sent to investigate in view of a possible landing. In the visit of the officers on shore he explained that they had taken pains to avoid disturbance of the seals.

On Kitovi and Lukanin rookeries this afternoon I gave particular attention to the starving pups. There are few harems on any of the rookeries which do not show at least one such pup. In one harem on Kitovi were three starving pups; one perhaps already dead. A second showed signs of breathing, but it was unconscious and the living pups were trampling over it without rousing it. The third was just able to get up and stagger away from a vigorous pup which wished to engage him in play. He tries to nurse a sleeping cow but is driven off. He is past the stage of acute hunger and soon lies down to sleep. A fourth starving pup in a neighboring harem has more strength and tries a number of cows one after another in quick succession, crying pitifully as he wanders about meeting with no sympathy or help. This same picture might be duplicated a dozen times on Kitovi and Lukanin to-day in as many harems. The number of dead pups is increasing, and all have that pinched, emaciated look which indicates starvation.

There are four branded cows in two harems under Lukanin Hill. Two branded cows have been previously noted here.

In looking at these branded cows—the arched brand across the middle of the back cutting the skin in two and necessarily dividing its value to the pelagic sealer—one can not avoid protesting against the abandonment of this practical experiment as applied to the female pups, and against the failure to apply it in the case of the 2,000 young males reserved this spring for breeding purposes.

July 21.—I attended the killing at Zapadni, going over in the Government's gasoline launch, which towed the natives in their boats. The launch had to return to the village for repairs and the company's steam launch was fired up and sent over. Both launches were anchored close to Little Zapadni rookery, it must be said, without apparently attracting any attention from the seals located there during the time of the killing. I did not expect it to be otherwise, but in view of the protest against the expedition of the *Bear's* launch, the fact that the Government launch and the company's launch produce no harmful effect is significant.

The *Perry* was anchored at Village Cove, and the fog shutting in about her, she sounded her whistle. This was criticized by Mr. Redpath as tending to stir up the seals and frighten them off.

I particularly observed the Zapadni rookeries with a view to ascertaining the effect of this whistling upon the seals, and it was not apparent that it had any effect.

The count of harems for the Zapadni rookeries was made by Messrs. Lembkey and Judge on the 16th, but in inspecting these rookeries this morning I made a recount, which agrees in all essentials with the earlier one.

It is noticeable that the seals on the main part of Zapadni do not enter the "death-trap" gully this year at all. That it is many years since they have done so is apparent from the fact that the gully is grass-grown throughout. The entire surface of the gully is covered with bowlders set at intervals of 3 or 4 feet. This was evidently done in accordance with the recommendations of the commission of 1896–97, when the mortality found in these places was thought to be due to the charging of the fighting bulls.

The second "death-trap" area on Zapadni has been abandoned also and is grass-grown. It is also set with bowlders.

One branded bull and two branded cows were seen on this rookery. Two bulls were seen guarding what had apparently been harems. Each had a number of pups about him and showed every indication of holding them as a harem. These bulls were located near the hauling ground, and the harems may have been disturbed in making the drive this morning. The pups are all well nourished.

Main Zapadni retains its outline, but all its masses are shrunk to the bowlder beach. The harems can be counted from the rear without difficulty. In 1897 it was necessary to get the beach count by boat. The harems continue to the limit at the point, the lateral shrinkage being from the end at the sand beach of Southwest Bay.

Little Zapadni is reduced to a single line of harems along the water front, with a slight massing of harems at the end toward Zapadni Reef.

There are no bachelors on the hauling ground of Little Zapadni and none have been obtained from this hauling ground this season.

A count of Zapadni Reef by harems this morning resulted as follows: 1, 4, 23, 7, 1, 3, 14, 13, 3, 8, 20. Harems, 11; cows, 97.

These harems are bunched at the lower end of the reef where it widens in a point.

A young bull holding a harem leaves it to enter the water at my approach, returning to his place as I pass by. His cows are not disturbed.

There are no bachelors to-day on the hauling ground of Tolstoi rookery.

In the evening I made a count of the harems on Sivutch Rock, assisted by Mr. Judge, going over in a boat from East Landing.

There are 61 harems, 2 idle, and 6 young bulls. This rookery had 102 harems in 1897, and, consequently, shows less decline than other rookeries of St. Paul. This is probably due to the fact that Sivutch Rock, lying just off Reef Peninsula, is directly in the route of seals making for Reef rookery and likely to draw from the larger breeding ground. About 100 bachelors were hauled out on the reef end of the islet. The harems extended across the middle portion of the rock in such a way as to make it necessary to dislodge one harem in order to reach the high ground from which the southern end of the rookery is visible.

July 22.—A count of the cows and harems on the Amphitheater of Kitovi resulted as follows: 18, 1, 22, 3, 33, 10, 1, 11, 12. Harems, 8; cows, 111.

For the 43 cows in the little bight there are 66 pups.

There are 37 harems, 3 idle bulls, and 16 young bulls on Lukanin to-day. Three dead pups are visible in one harem under the cliff. Many starving pups are visible from this point.

It is clear to-day and three schooners are visible to the eastward. Two of these are the same vessels seen on July 18, and they are in very much the same position. One small boat is visible with the naked eye. One of these schooners is the *Toyei Maru.* She had 644 skins when boarded by the *Manning* on July 11. She was recently spoken by the *Manning* and reported something over 900 skins. The greater part of her catch of 644 reported for July 11 was taken in Asiatic waters before entering Bering Sea. She is said to carry 9 Canadian sealers, who have taken out Japanese naturalization papers.

Shooting in the direction of the schooners is heard continuously during the afternoon.

July 23.—Attended the killing at Northeast Point and looked over the rookeries again after the drive. There are 5 harems to-day on the west side of Sea Lion Neck, where only 3 were found on the 14th.

Two dead pups were obtained from the edge of the mass of seals to the west of Walrus Bight. Both are starved, as shown by the great emaciation, empty stomachs, and black tarry faces.

A count of adult animals showed 103 bulls, cows, and bachelor sea lions on the point. The sea-lion pups were not counted. Mingled as they are with the mother fur seals and resembling them in size and color it seems not unlikely that sea-lion pups were mistaken for fur-seal cows in the case of the harems supposed to have been found on Buldir Island a year or two ago.

There is a second breeding ground of sea lions between the point and Hutchinson Hill. No fur seals are mixed in here. It was possible to count 24 sea-lion pups. With these were 5 adult sea-lion bulls and 6 cows. Other cows were in the water.

There are 46 fur-seal harems to-day under Hutchinson Hill where 51 were counted on the 14th. Only 6 idle bulls remain, showing that some of these have acquired harems. Three harems are located on the slope of Hutchinson Hill. It is nearly a quarter of a mile to the shore. The cows occupying these harems must have come to them from a definite sense of locality, as they have had not merely to work through the harems on shore but to cross the full width of the flat between the beach and the foot of the hill.

One isolated harem of 14 cows to the west of Hutchinson Hill is held by a young bull which leaves the cows and takes to the water, returning to his harem when we have passed.

The killing at the point this morning yielded 475 skins. The total number of animals driven was 712. Of these, 136 were shaved heads; 48 were rejected because too big, 53 because too little. Out of the 712 animals, therefore, only 53, or 7½ per cent, are available for next year's quota.

With this may be compared a killing made at Northeast Point in 1897. The total number killed was 1,322. The full drive numbered 3,869. There were no shaved heads. Of the 2,547 exempted from killing, 500 were too large, 2,047 too small. The 2,047 small seals, or 55 per cent of the whole drive, were left for the quota of 1898 Contrast with this the 7½ per cent left for the quota of 1910.

A killing was made at Halfway Point as usual on the return trip. It yielded 32 skins. Fifteen animals—young bulls—too large for killing and 9 shaved heads were exempted, but no small seals whatever. As the end of the killing season approaches it is plain that no seal is really too small to be killed. Skins of less than 5 pounds weight are taken and also skins of 8 and 9 pounds. These latter are plainly animals which escaped the killing of last year because their heads were shaved. Otherwise it does not seem clear how they did escape.

July 24.—A killing was made this morning from Reef and Lukanin. Tolstoi has ceased to yield any bachelors. The killing yielded 685 skins; 135 shaved heads were turned back. The total number of animals driven was 941. Of the remaining exemptions 81 were too big for killing; 40, too little. In short, only slightly over 4 per cent of the animals driven were left for the quota of 1910. The actual percentage killed was 72. If we add the number of killable size marked for breeding reserve, 135, the percentage of killable seals in this drive rises to 87 per cent. In a drive made from these same rookeries on this date in 1897 the percentage of killable seals was 23.

A count of cows and harems was made on Ardiguen rookery as follows: 8, 59, 51,[1] 4, 6, 16, 18, 11, 2, 18, 27, 16.

This gives a total of 13 harems and 236 cows. One of the young bulls has gone.

A number of starving pups are visible. One makes persistent but ineffectual attempts to nurse sleeping cows.

A recount was also made of the Amphitheater of Kitovi, as follows: 1, 21, 15, 25, 6, 4, 5, 11, 3. Harems, 9; cows, 91. One harem is gone, cows, bull, pups, and all, and a young bull has a new harem. For the harem of 21 cows there are 43 pups. Among them are several starving ones. There are 4 dead pups in two harems under Lukanin Hill.

Under Lukanin Hill are a considerable number of small, restless animals which young bulls are rounding up on the water front. These are without doubt the young 2-year-old cows.

July 25.—Went over to Zapadni this morning with the killing crew. The company's coal-burning launch was used to tow the boats over, and it was as usual anchored directly in front of Little Zapadni rookery without in any way alarming the seals on this rookery.

An inspection of the Zapadni rookeries showed the same growing mortality among the pups, due to starvation, that is so visible on Kitovi and the Reef rookeries. A large number of the young 2-year-old cows were visible on the main rookery of Zapadni.

The killing at Zapadni yielded 245 skins; 32 shaved heads were exempted from killing, and in addition 11 big and 22 little unshaved animals. Of the total drive of 310 animals 79 per cent were killed.

There is evident to-day a tendency among the seals on the main part of Tolstoi to spread out on the sand flat. Four considerable harems are located there. Four dead pups are visible in the outer edge of a large pod of pups. Three of these are

[1] Two harems that can not be separated.

obtained with some difficulty, but all three are manifestly dead of starvation. There is no trace of the worm in the small intestine.

In view of the fact that the breeding seals have not until lately been on the sand flat it does not seem worth while to disturb the rookery to make a thorough search for animals possibly dead from the worm. All pups so far found have manifestly died of other causes. Sections of the intestines, however, have been preserved and will be turned over to Mr. Chichester for closer examination.

The investigation of the parasite *uncinaria* has been specially assigned to Mr. Chichester for study, but unfortunately he has been stationed on St. George Island this summer, where no trace of the worm was found to exist in 1897. He is expected to come to St. Paul soon after the 1st of August, and a more definite search for the worm will then be made.

It is evident, however, that the epidemic among the pups on Tolstoi this season will not be due to the worm, but to the Japanese sealers. The little starvlings are wandering like ghosts everywhere. One very hungry and persistent pup is seen in 15 minutes' observation to attempt to nurse 19 different cows.

At Kitovi rookery this afternoon the pups were seen for the first time this season trying the water. It is clear and sunshiny. A considerable number of pups are playing in a small cove. None know how to swim, and they virtually walk about under the water, where they get into deep water. The pups trying the water are plainly the oldest and most active pups. The wet pups in harems far from the water show that the little fellows are not all from the near-water harems.

A young bachelor with a shaved head lands among the wet pups and attempts to round them up bull-fashion into a harem.

A sealing schooner is sailing along the east side of St. Paul Island toward Northeast Point.

July 26.—It is clear and unusually calm this morning. Shots are heard in the vicinity of East Landing. The natives report hearing them since 4 o'clock. Mr. Redpath thinks the shots too numerous to represent shooting at seals. In his opinion, boats are approaching the 3-mile limit and volleying with a view to frightening the seals into the water in the hope that they will come within reach.

The sight of the sealing schooners and boats and the sound of the firing have given the natives of St. Paul a vivid sense of what is causing the seals to diminish. In 1896–97 pelagic sealing was a remote evil but dimly realized. A native was then apt to ascribe the diminution of the seals to rookery investigation.

The fences put about the salt lagoon and Webster Lake in 1897 for the purpose of herding the bachelor seals rejected from the drives to keep them out of the way of the pelagic sealers have disappeared. There are several rolls of wire lying about, but the posts are gone. This experiment, like the branding, has evidently been laid aside as a failure. Under the Canadian sealing the herding of the bachelors was a rather remote possibility of help, as the bachelor seals are less likely to feed at long distances from the islands and never so frequently as the mother seals. With Japanese sealing on the 3-mile limit, however, the matter is entirely different. The bachelors, if they go to sea at all, must cross this line going and coming and are therefore as liable to be shot as the females. Some means of holding them, if even for no longer than 10 days at a time, would represent a positive protection to them. It is therefore to be regretted exceedingly that the inclosure of the salt lagoon is not now available for the herding of at least the shaved-headed bachelors reserved for breeding purposes, which, as matters stand, have been liable to the fire of the Japanese sealers during the past month and are still liable to it for the month of August.

These two practical experiments—branding and herding—successfully inaugurated in 1896–97, have, it seems to me, been condemned without a proper test and to the detriment of our interests in the seal herd.

Four sealing schooners are in sight on the east side of St. Paul Island this afternoon, the weather being clear. One of them seemed very close to Walrus Island. Evidently the *Bear* thought so, too, for it sailed out and circled about the vessel. A seizure was anticipated, but the schooner was not within the 3-mile limit. In clear weather it is difficult to judge distances.

From the sands of English Bay four other schooners are visible this afternoon, also to the southwest, evenly spaced between Tolstoi and Zapadni heads. There has been a scattering of the sealing fleet within the past few days with a movement in the direction of Northeast Point. It looks this afternoon as if the island was to be encircled.

Shooting is heard on both sides of the island. It sounds like skirmish firing. Counted for several minutes the shots numbered about five a minute. Probably other vessels are farther out and only the shooting of the nearest boats are audible.

The *Bear* is stationed at Northeast Point. The *Perry* is cruising to the southwest, her station being at the village end of the island. The vessels change their location from one side to the other daily, except in rough weather, when they hold the lee side.

The work of patrol is vigilantly and actively performed, but it is all futile. There is nothing that the vessels can do to hinder or prevent the work of the sealers. In the case of the Canadian sealers it was possible to board and search their catches for shot skins. There is no reasonable excuse for boarding the Japanese vessels. The vessels do not have to violate the territorial limit. The sealing is no better at 2 miles than at 4. All the animals coming and going must cross the 4 or 5 mile line, or, for that matter, the 10-mile line, their journey being a long one—100 to 200 miles out. A vessel getting within the 3-mile limit, or even getting one of its boats within this limit, leaves itself liable to seizure, with loss of vessel and catch. The *Tenyu Maru*, seized by the *Perry* early in the season, was 11 miles out, but one of her boats got within 1½ miles of Otter Island and was caught.

Raiding of the rookeries has proved a disastrous form of sealing and is not likely to be attempted. If it were, it would be tried in foggy weather or at night, when the real protection of the rookeries would be the shore guard. It is unsafe to work close inshore with the cutters in foggy weather.

In short, the work of patrol, while necessary as a deterrent influence, is futile so far as preventing or even limiting the work of pelagic sealing is concerned. Its mission is merely to see that the work of destruction is carried on in a lawful manner, there being no inducement other than a spirit of foolhardihood and recklessness for pursuing it otherwise.

It would be better to ignore the patrol of the 3-mile limit, place a strong guard on each rookery, invite the sealers to raid, and fight it out with them. A coast guard, with launches at hand for a quick dash out from shore, would accomplish more in the way of seizures. Under such conditions it would be some satisfaction to be engaged in defending the rookeries. As it is now one's blood boils from sheer helplessness to do anything. The very vigilance of the patrol prevents violation of the law which would make seizures possible, while the sealing itself goes on without restriction or abatement.

The pups are playing in the water everywhere along Tolstoi front. Many of them are able to swim. Among the pups are the 2-year-old cows in increasing numbers. These animals are also scattered among the harems and are readily distinguishable because of their restlessness. The older bulls pay little attention to them.

There are no bachelors on Tolstoi and there have been none since the 20th. It looks as if the supply was exhausted.

There has been heavy surf on two or three occasions from the southwest, but no windrow of dead pups has been thrown up at the lower end of Tolstoi.

Two branded bulls occupy adjacent harems to-day in the edge of Tolstoi sand flat. One was previously noted here. This makes five of these branded bulls, branded in mistake for females. All five of these bulls look about the same age. The last use of this brand was in 1902, and it was used for about three seasons prior to this date. The ages of these bulls must lie between 7 and 10 years.

Some light is thrown on the ages of the bulls by the history of the idle-bull class since 1896–97. In those years we found thousands of these animals swarming over the vacant breeding grounds. It was felt then that the origin of this excess of idle bulls lay in the effect of the modus vivendi of 1891–92–93, which restricted land killing. This conjecture is confirmed by the fact that the disappearance of these bulls occurred in three seasons, 1901–2–3, the disappearance being so definite and sudden as to occasion alarm in 1903–4. As the young males, unnecessarily spared by the suppression of killing in 1891–1893, were then 3 years of age, their disappearance occurring 10 years afterwards, marks 13 as an average or normal age of the bull fur seal, a period of life considerably shorter than has previously been assigned to him.

Observation of the five branded bulls noted this season on the rookeries ought to throw additional light on this subject in the course of the next three or four years. The branded cows should throw similar light on the age of the females.

On the very top of the hill slope of Tolstoi, back of the sand flat, is a young cow with a pup a few days old. There is no bull and no other harems within 500 feet. The mother seems very solicitous about the pup, and it is found to be anchored to the placenta by a very thick umbilical cord, the placenta being wedged between rocks, holding the pup fast. The cow fights furiously to prevent the pup from being released, and it is only by holding her off by main force at the end of a pole that the pup can be cut loose.

At the other end of the slope is another similar case, except that the pup is free, and with the mother is a young 2-year-old cow. The mother defends her pup vigorously for a time, but, as if knowing that it is free to get away itself, she abandons it.

The presence of these cows in places where no regular harems have been this season, and probably not last, without bulls, seems to point to some instinctive return of the cow to a definite locality on the rookery, determined perhaps by place of birth.

A dead pup, secured from the edge of a harem on the sand flat of Tolstoi, was found to be starved. There was no trace of *uncinaria* in the intestines.

July 27.—The drive at Northeast Point this morning yielded 187 skins. Only 3 animals too small to be killed were turned back. Polovina rookery gave only 16 skins, and no animals too small to be killed were turned back.

The weather is blamed for the shortage, and it has not been favorable; but the supply of killable seals is plainly approaching exhaustion for this year and for next as well.

A recount of Kitovi rookery by harems was made for comparative purposes. It resulted as follows: 3, 0, 3, 2, 4, 7, 18, 8, 34, 14, 12, 10, 5, 20, 16, 14, 17, 4, 16, 8, 14, 17, 11, 12, 2, 14, 4, 28, 6, 22, 7, 2, 6, 7, 7, 4, 14, 6, 7, 8, 1, 3, 14. Harems, 42; cows, 448.

The Amphitheater was counted separately as follows: 0, 10, 4, 2, 19, 1, 8, 1. Harems 8; cows, 45. For the entire rookery this gives 50 harems and 493 cows.

A dead cow is lodged in the rocks at the edge of the surf, as if washed in. Another cow is lying in an unconscious condition in the little cove at the bottom of the Amphitheater. There are shot holes in her neck, or possibly the marks of teeth.

In the evening, in company with Mr. Lembkey, I returned to examine the dead and injured cows. The dead one was brought up on the bank and examination showed shot holes in the neck and also in the small of the back. The unconscious cow was still alive and was brought up out of reach of the surf. It was decided to leave her till morning.

It is raining this evening for the first time since I arrived on the islands. The season is in respect of clear weather very similar to the season of 1897, but very different from the season of 1896. The grass is short. It was waist-high in 1896.

July 28.—The killing this morning from Reef and Gorbatch yielded 453 skins. No seals were found on Lukanin or Tolstoi. The animals killed were 77 per cent of those driven. Only 18 small seals were turned back.

After the killing I went to Kitovi with Mr. Lembkey and Dr. Mills to examine the dead and injured cows. The dead cow had seven shot holes, four in the neck and three in the rump, one piercing the uterus. She had been dead about two days. It is probable that she had just strength enough left to reach the shore.

The condition of this cow explains the double shots heard so frequently in the vicinity of the sealing schooners. The fur seal, when it is alarmed, raises its head and neck above the water to try to get sight of the object that alarms it. This offers a good mark for the first shot. The animal makes a dive, which brings the entire body out of the water in a long curve, the tail disappearing last and offering a mark for the second barrel. Double-barrel shotguns are used by the Japanese sealers. The buckshots taken from this animal correspond exactly to those taken in 1896–97 from animals shot then by Canadian sealers.

The second cow was still alive. She was killed and skinned. The holes in her neck were the result of a bite and were not serious. Her skull was found to be fractured, the hole being very small, as if made by a jagged stone.

While examining this cow a second dead cow was found at some distance back from a neighboring harem. She was recently dead and her head was literally crushed.

Two possible explanations are suggested for the condition of these two cows—first, that a raid had been made at this point, the boat getting away with such seals as were captured, these two being left behind; second, that the animals had been stoned by boys from the village. That a raid was made here seems improbable. Mr. Lembkey will ascertain as to the other theory.

In the afternoon I visited Polovina rookery in company with Mr. Judge. It rained heavily. The surf was washing over the reef at the point and the harems formerly located on its edge had moved back on the higher ground behind. The animals on the flat were in a very uncomfortable state by reason of the rain. A large band of seals are swimming in the surf offshore, both on the main rookery and the cliff portion. These animals have evidently taken to the water as affording greater comfort than can be found on the land.

It is to be noted that when the animals take to the water in this way, either as a result of weather conditions or when disturbed in the course of rookery inspection, they do not go far out—seldom more than a few rods, never anything like 3 miles. They swim back and forth, play and sleep in the water, landing again as they feel like it; in all probability going to sea to feed, if ready to do so. There is, however, no evidence that disturbance on the rookery of a normal, ordinary kind will frighten seals into range of the pelagic sealers 3 to 10 miles off the rookeries. The fear that the counting of seal pups will do this is apparently very real to the representatives of the company and seems to be shared by the Government agents themselves, but in my judgment it is unwarranted. The fur seal does not have intelligence enough to carry the impression of fright so long or so far as this; otherwise we should not have the animals which are released from the much more trying ordeal of the killing field returning and immediately hauling out on the grounds from which they were driven three or four hours before.

The rain sends the bachelor seals into the water. It was reported that about 200 bachelors were hauled out at Zapadni yesterday, but that to-day there are only about 50. It is also true, however, that if rain drives the animals into the water, the rough weather which accompanies it leaves the animals uncomfortable at sea also, and they are likely to haul better after a storm.

In making the drive from the Reef and Gorbatch this morning the drivers must have pressed the breeding grounds closely, as a considerable number of cows, 14 at least, were included. These were for the most part recognized and exempted by the clubbers, but two adult cows in milk were killed by accident. Most of the cows were young animals—2-year-olds.

July 29.—The killing scheduled this morning for Zapadni has been postponed, as too few seals are hauled there to make it worth while.

Zoltoi in 1896–97 was the favorite hauling ground of a group of idle bulls. It has so far had no such animals on it, but to-day there are 6 bulls on the side toward East Landing. Two are young bulls, four look like harem bulls which have withdrawn to rest. Two bulls are to-day hauled out on what we, in 1896, termed the "hospital" of Gorbatch. These bulls are, however, not derelicts but vigorous animals.

Mr. Lembkey reports that the cows found dead on the Amphitheater of Kitovi were actually stoned by some native boys who offer as an excuse that while they were seeking birds' nests the seals attacked them and they stoned them in self-defense.

On Kitovi the first two harems on the point have lost their bulls. The cows are gone from one harem, only one pup remaining; the other harem has four cows and eight pups. These harems were small and it is probable that the bulls, having served all the cows, have gone to sea.

Many young gray bulls are noted in the rookery and about it, and particularly in the larger harems are many of the 2-year-old cows.

Starvation is steadily at work. Every harem has its starvlings and the dead pups are increasing. They pull out from the pods of pups to die alone.

There are two bulls side by side on Kitovi each with a "moon" or blind eye. One is quite a character and has been observed to occupy his present position for several seasons. The second bull is younger. The branded bull continues to hold his harem.

July 30.—The drive from Zapani this morning gives 585 skins. It is the largest drive from this rookery for the season. Those killed constitute 79 per cent of all the animals driven. Only 39, too small, are turned back. The closeness of the driving is evident from the fact that 10 cows are recognized; two are accidently killed. One bachelor with a St. George identification mark (three clipped spots on the shoulders as well as the head shaved) is seen.

Mr. Allis, the company's representative from St. George, arrives at St. Paul on the *Manning*. He reports only 175 skins needed to fill the proportion of the quota for St. George. Mr. Lembkey sends word by the *Manning* to St. George to take additional skins there if possible, as St. Paul will be short of its proportion of the quota.

It is reported from Northeast Point that the sealers have a number of boats at or within the 3-mile limit shooting with a view to frightening the seals into the water and, as to-morrow is the last day of sealing, Mr. Redpath goes this afternoon to the point to have a drive made this evening with a view to holding them over till to-morrow to insure there not being driven off.

The pups at the point on Kitovi, where they were first noted as going into the water on the 25th, are learning to swim fast. Many of them are expert already. Three little cows are playing with the swimming pups. They can scarcely be 2-year-olds and seem like last year's pups. They are but little bigger than the oldest pups. If these are yearlings, they are the first and only ones of this class so far recognized. It is believed that the yearlings, as a class, come later in the fall. In 1896–97, however, many of them used to be included in the drives from Lukanin.

The first harem on the point at Kitovi, from which the original bull has been gone for several days, is now in charge of a young bull, who takes to the water, but returns. He has three cows. The second harem is still without bull, and there is only one starving pup. The branded bull is still in his place.

Of the four starving pups in one harem at Rock 10, two are dead, one dying, and the fourth is missing.

This is the first quiet day since the storm. The booming of the guns to the east of the island can be heard. The *Toyei Maru*, which is anchored off Kitovi Point, is plainly visible. When spoken by the *Bear* on the 26th, she reported 936 skins. She had 644 on July 11.

July 31.—This is the last day of sealing, and preparations are being made to drive every rookery. The killing from Reef and Gorbatch yields 660 skins. This represents 76 per cent of the animals driven. One hundred and ten seals are obtained from Lukanin and Kitovi. No small seals are rejected in this drive; 21 small ones are left from the Reef drive Nineteen skins are obtained at Halfway Point. The

drive at Northeast Point gives 330 skins; 15 small ones only are exempted. Zapadni, redriven to-day, gives 41 additional skins taken. Three small ones are released. At the drive yesterday from this rookery 39 small animals were released. Most of these are probably included in the killing to-day. Gorbatch is driven a second time to-day and 62 skins taken.

This is certainly whirlwind sealing and an effective clean up of the hauling grounds. If the Alaska Commercial Co. cleaned up the hauling grounds without reference to the new lessees in the season of 1889, the North American Commercial Co. has in like manner cleaned up the hauling grounds without reference to the lessees of next year.

The total of to-day's killing on St. Paul is 1,222 skins.

There were 18 cows in the drive at Northeast Point to-day. Cows are harder to manage on the killing field than bachelors. No cows were killed to-day.

One bachelor from St. George was present in the drive at the point to-day, recognizable by the clipped shoulders, in addition to clipped head. This clipping on the back is apparently an effective means of damaging the skin for the season at least, and if branding with the iron is not used this double clipping should be adopted also for St. Paul.

It is reported by the guards at Northeast Point that nine sealing boats came in in the fog very close to the shore, the hunters discharging their guns as quickly and as often as possible, the purpose being to frighten the seals. There were three sealing schooners off the point.

Vostockni rookery is still an impressive sight as seen from Hutchinson Hill. There are probably no more seals on it to-day than when I was last here, but they have spread back on the flat and make a better showing.

August 1.—On Gorbatch rookery the starving pups are very conspicuous. Five are seen in one harem. Every harem has its dead and starving. Twenty-five of the little 2-year-old cows are playing with the pups in one cove on Gorbatch. These animals are conspicuous on all the rookeries.

The hauling grounds of the reef show only a small number of animals—shaved heads and young bulls. There are no killable seals on Lukanin.

August 2.—A count of live pups was made on Ardiguen rookery this morning. There are 339 living, and 16 dead, making 355 in all. Two hundred and seven cows were counted here on July 15. There are still 9 harems. One wet bull came in directly from the sea and was hardest to move. Of the 16 dead pups, all but 3 were recently dead, and starvation was plainly the cause of death. Of the living pups, 28 were noted as certainly starving, their death being but a matter of a few days. Other pups were noted as hungry, but their mothers might still return.

In the first large harem at the end of Gorbatch cinder slope are 3 dead and 5 starving pups.

A very careful count of pups was made this afternoon on Kitovi rookery with the assistance of Agents Lembkey and Judge; 1,979 pups were found. Sixty of these are already dead, with one exception, all of starvation. Fifty pups were noted as doomed to die of starvation within a few days.

The day was foggy and rainy. A heavy surf was beating on the shore. Practically all the cows were turned into the water and most of the bulls. The day has been ideal for the work, in that the Japanese sealers have not been able to operate. It is my belief that practically no damage to the rookery has resulted. No cow would voluntarily go to sea in such rough weather, and in all probability all will resume their places on the rookery. An examination will be made to-morrow to ascertain the fact.

In the count of pups to-day, as in 1896–97, great difficulty was experienced by reason of the massing of the pups in crevices in the rocks, from which it was necessary in many cases to drag them out to ascertain their number. This rookery should be gone over in the fall and these crevices filled up with stones in such a way as to prevent the pups from packing into them in case of a count. If it were not for this hiding of the pups, the counting would not be difficult.

At the dinner table this evening, Mr. Redpath very emphatically protested against the count of live pups as the most detrimental thing that could be done to the herd, and one that should be stopped. He based his opinion on two grounds: First, that the bulls driven off would leave the cows without adequate service, and second, that the cows driven off would be killed by the Japanese sealers. He cited the action of Mr. Sims in 1906 in suppressing the rookery counts as the most sensible action taken by the Government recently in rookery investigation.

As a matter of fact, when we consider the case of Kitovi rookery, which has been subjected to annual counts for each season since 1896 with the exception of 1906, we find that it has apparently not suffered adversely by the work of investigation, to which it has been subjected in excess of any of the other rookeries. Its measure of decline

in the 12 years has been in round numbers 63 per cent, while the measure of decline in the Northeast Point rookery of Vostochni—one farthest removed from inspection or disturbance—has been 80 per cent. If we take the actual count of live pups for the past three seasons we find them to be—1907, 1,859; 1908, 1,960; 1909, 1,979, showing an apparent increase in pups, in all likelihood due to an influx of cows from other rookeries, or greater exemption from the effects of pelagic sealing. At any rate, the harmful effect of rookery inspection and investigation is not seen in the rookery where most of it has been done.

Speaking of the failure to get the full quota of skins, Mr. Redpath expressed the opinion that no difficulty would have been experienced in getting the quota if it had not been for the interference necessary in the marking of the reserve for breeding purposes, which was done before killing for the quota could be commenced. The limitation of killing to the 31st of July was also objectionable.

August 3.—I visited Kitovi rookery this afternoon at the hour on which the count of live pups was made yesterday, being accompanied by Mr. Judge. We counted 42 harem bulls in place, with the harems restored to their places to all intents and purposes as they were before the count was begun yesterday. At the count of cows and harems on Kitovi on July 26 only 50 of the original 55 harems were found. Two of these at the point have been noted as missing for several days, so that the actual decrease in harems to-day over the 26th is only 6. Looking at Kitovi rookery to-day one can not see that it shows any difference as a result of its disturbance yesterday, and I am unwilling to admit that it has suffered any damage whatever as a result of our work.

August 4.—A count of pups was made this morning on Lagoon, Tolstoi Cliffs, and Zapadni Reef.

On Lagoon rookery there were 320 cows and 8 bulls present. All except 1 young bull and 1 cow went into the water; 693 pups were found; 22 were dead; 30 starving. Two dead cows were found, too decayed to determine cause of death. This rookery had on July 12, 12 harems and 281 cows.

One pup was seen with one hind flipper cut off clean at the body; the wound was fresh and the pup was active and hearty.

On Tolstoi Cliffs 1,452 pups were found. This rookery had, on July 15, 698 cows in 25 harems; 55 of the pups were dead and 36 were found starving, i. e., in a condition where death from this cause was assured.

One branded cow not previously observed was seen. A bachelor was found pinned down under a bowlder which had in some way shifted enough to imprison the animal by its fore flipper. Death resulted from starvation and was recent enough to make it worth while to save the skin.

A newly born pup was observed.

The cows and bulls on this rookery returned in many cases to their places before we left the rookery.

A pod of several hundred bachelors was found on this rookery in a place from which they could not be driven. A vacant space in the rookery has evidently been taken by them as a hauling ground. Many were shaved heads, but a good many killable seals were among them.

On Zapadni Reef 319 pups were found, with 10 dead and 7 starving. This rookery had on July 16, 137 cows in 11 harems.

A newly born pup was found here anchored to a heavy placenta, which prevented its moving about. It was cut loose.

A young bull turned back in the drive at Northeast Point on July 31, and, recognizable by a peculiarly torn under lip, was present on Zapadni Reef to-day in charge of a small harem, which he defended vigorously.

The counting of pups on Zapadni Reef and Lagoon was a simple and easy matter compared with Kitovi and Tolstoi Cliffs because there were no crevices in which the pups could hide.

The foregoing counts of pups aggregate 4,798. Of this number 161 are dead, the cause of death being in practically all cases starvation; 143 will die of the same cause within a few days—a mortality of 6½ per cent. This mortality is attributable to pelagic sealing for the month of July. A like or even greater mortality will result from the sealing of the month of August. In other words, the rookeries of St. Paul Island are to suffer a loss of approximately 13 per cent of their birth rate of pups for the present and of their stock of breeding females from pelagic sealing.

An inspection of the hauling grounds of Reef Peninsula shows only a small number of bachelors on the shore—for the most part shaved heads and young bulls.

In the evening I went on board the *Perry* and arranged with Capt. Haake for transportation to the *Manning* at St. George to-morrow afternoon. Returning from the vessel at 8 o'clock, our boat passed another boat containing Agents Lembkey and Chichester going to warn the *Perry* that sealing boats close inshore, and apparently

intending to land, were seen by the guard at Zapadni. The report had been received by telephone. The *Perry* got under way but it was dark by the time the point was reached and nothing was seen of the boats. Reenforcements to the guards at Zapadni were sent over by Agent Judge.

This incident suggests certain things:

First, that the revenue cutters on patrol duty should have searchlights. If there were boats at Southwest Point last night such a light would have disclosed the fact.

Second, that a trained guard of marines, which could keep cool and await the landing of the raiders with a hope of effecting a capture, would be better than the native guard. The natives are apt to get excited and to see things that do not exist, or to see things close at hand which are beyond the 3-mile limit. I do not mean to impeach the loyalty or courage of the natives, but they are not trained to guard duty or to meeting and dealing with emergency matters, and the direction and supervision of the agents are far away from them both in distance and in time.

Third, that there exist no proper roads or trails to the rookeries. A suggestion was made in 1896–97 that suitable roads be built to give ready access to the rookeries, largely on the ground of convenience. Now, with the possibility of a raid on any of the rookeries at any time the matter is one of real necessity. To send reenforcements to the guard at Zapadni to-night meant that men must walk 7 miles over a blind and uncertain trail in the dark and carry their guns and provisions. If the raid were at Northeast Point the distance is twice as great, and it could not be safely traversed in the darkness with a team. The trip by mule team in daylight requires 3½ to 4 hours. There are two strong mule teams and one horse in the village, but there is not a single rookery on the island to which they could be used to transport a body of men at night to repel a raid. In daylight the only road is that to Northeast Point, on which a team can not travel above a walk.

This matter of roads is a crying need on the islands, and the services of the natives ought to be available from the close of the sealing season to the setting in of winter to build such roads.

August 5.—Having finished the necessary work on the islands I went on board the *Perry* and was transferred to the *Manning* at St. George Island, this vessel having been ordered to cruise on the 60-mile zone in search of Canadian sealing vessels, none of which have yet been seen in Bering Sea. Three Canadian vessels—the *Pescawha*, the *Thomas F. Bayard*, and the *Jessie*—were boarded by the *Bear* in the North Pacific on June 23. They were then engaged in sea-otter hunting.

On the way to St. George the *Perry* passed close to Otter Island, sufficiently close to enable me with a glass to see that no seals were hauled out on this island.

The Japanese sealing fleet is no longer concentrated to the southwest off Otter Island. No vessels were in sight from the *Perry* this afternoon, although her course would have shown as many as 11 vessels on the 11th of July. The Japanese fleet has moved up toward the northern end of St. Paul Island.

August 6.—The *Perry* returned to St. Paul this morning and the *Manning* sets out for the western end of the southwest quadrant of the 60-mile zone. Reaching this on the morning of the 7th, she begins a zigzag course, running 5 miles beyond the line, turning at right angles across the line and 5 miles within it; then again turning at right angles, and so on back and forth throughout its length, from its eastern end sailing into Unalaska for coal.

No sealers are seen, and naturally so, as the best sealing grounds for the Canadian sealers are many miles outside the 60-mile zone, 150 to 200 miles beyond the islands. There is no reason why a Canadian sealer should get within the 60-mile zone except by accident, and this patrol therefore becomes a futile matter, except in so far as it is prescribed by the regulations of the Paris tribunal, which are in themselves futile.

Considering the discomfort and hardship which this patrol involves for the men engaged in it and particularly in view of the futility of it all and the expense it entails, the Government ought to remove the necessity for it by active and aggressive measures for the abolition of pelagic sealing. The protection and preservation of the fur-seal herd is not to be attained by patroling the waters of Bering Sea, but by eliminating pelagic sealing.

August 9.—The *Manning* anchors at Unalaska at 8 o'clock, having passed the North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer* at 6 o'clock on her way to the Pribilof Islands.

Capt. Jacobs, commanding the patrol fleet, stationed at Unalaska, kindly supplied me with the following data, to and including July 31, regarding the pelagic sealing fleets:

Japanese vessels boarded.

Names.	Port.	Master.	Boarding vessel.	Date.	Skins.
1. Hoko Maru	Tokyo	Sakabara	Rush	July 21	177
2. Domei Maru	do	Nishiwa	Manning	July 11	92
3. Eiun Maru, 2	Rikuzen	Neake Chi	do	do	148
4. Konei Maru	Kogoshima	Kadowaki	do	do	39
5. Chihokuni Maru	Hakodate	Kohashi	Rush	July 26	330
6. Toro Maru	do	Shishido	Bear	July 19	225
7. Nitto Maru	Miyokocho	Tokameatsu	Manning	July 11	310
8. Kofugi Maru	Hakodate	Kadowaki	Perry	July 3	6
9. Toyei Maru, 2	Shimasato	Sato	Bear	July 26	936
10. Tenyu Maru	Tokyo	Nakanishi	Perry	July 9	[1] 39
11. Shimushu Maru	do	Shiono	Manning	July 11	62
12. Chitose Maru	do	Mizukamy	Rush	July 26	155
13. Chitose Maru, 2	Rikuzen	Meura	Bear	July 31	152
14. Toka Maru	Minato	Arawaka	do	do	272
15. Koyi Maru	Isibama	Mauo	Manning	July 11	160
16. Too Maru	Shirota	Yashido	do	do	47
17. Boso Maru, 2	Minato	Yamanaka	do	do	96
Total					3,246

[1] Seized.

Canadian vessels boarded.

Names.	Port.	Master.	Boarding vessel.	Date.	Skins.
1. Pescawha	Victoria	Balson, B. M	Bear	June 23	
2. Bayard	do	Blakstad, H	do	do	
3. Jessie	do	Munro, W	do	do	

It is noted that the Japanese schooners, in the majority of cases, have orders from their owners to return home at a definite date, the dates for leaving the sea varying from the middle of August to the middle of September. This is to avoid the typhoon season on the Asiatic side, several vessels having been lost in the past because of delay in returning.

The *Tenyu Maru* with 39 skins was seized by the *Perry* on July 9, one of her boats being within the 3-mile limit. Three of her boats did not return to the vessel, probably taking refuge with other sealing vessels. The vessel with 15 of her crew is anchored under guard in Unalaska Harbor. She will be taken to Valdez by the *Perry* in the latter part of the month.

August 11.—The British gunboat *Algerine* entered Unalaska Harbor this morning. Capt. Edwards is in command. The vessel will coal and go on patrol duty on the 60-mile zone.

Capt. Edwards reports 5 Canadian vessels as having taken out licenses for sealing. He had not encountered any of the vessels. He expects to find them on the cruise he proposes to make on the northeast quadrant, this being the direction in which the Canadian sealers found the best sealing last season.

August 12.—The revenue cutter *Tahoma* came into Unalaska to-day for coal. She is 8 days out from Yokohama via Attu and is bound for Seattle, the last lap in her cruise around the world. Capt. Quinan is in command. He made the cruise in investigation of pelagic sealing in 1890 as lieutenant on the *Corwin*.

August 13.—The *Manning* left Unalaska to-day to resume cruising in Bering Sea. The *Perry* came into harbor for coal. The mail boat *Dora* reached Dutch Harbor this morning.

August 14.—Through the courtesy of Capt. Jacobs and Deputy Commissioner Harmon of Unalaska I was able to visit the Japanese sealing schooners *Kinsi Maru* and *Sakai Maru*, seized in the latter part of July last year off Northeast Point. The first of these vessels is a schooner of 130 tons, carrying 8 boats, 16 hunters, and a total crew of 40 men, including a white sailing master. The second vessel is smaller—75 tons, with 7 boats. The crews of the vessels were taken to Valdez last fall and their cases disposed

of. No disposition has yet been made of the vessels and their catches, which lie under guard in the harbor of Unalaska. The catch of the *Kinsi Maru* was 416 skins; that of the *Sakai Maru*, 244 skins, making in all 650 skins, worth according to the quotations for pelagic skins for 1905, $27 per skin or a total of $17,550. The skins are deteriorating in the salt and their guarding is a matter of constant expense. The *Kinsi Maru* dragged two anchors last winter and came near being wrecked in the harbor. Some disposition ought to be made without delay of these vessels and their catches.

The skins on the *Kinsi Maru* show that the Japanese sealers take all classes of animals from the bulls down to the small bachelors, the bulk of the catch, however, being females. Salted by themselves on this vessel are 40 to 50 little black skins—skins of unborn pups cut from gravid females. The catch of this vessel was taken off Northeast Point in July. The Japanese vessels from their position on the 3-mile limit naturally intercept the gravid females as they approach the rookeries to give birth to their pups. They also take the mother seal as she goes and comes from the feeding grounds, her pup being left to starve. The Japanese sealing therefore combines the destructive feature of the northwest coast sealing—the killing of gravid females with their unborn young, with the even more destructive features of the Bering Sea sealing, when the mother seal, again pregnant, is killed and her young left to starve, and the work of the Japanese is carried steadily on throughout the closed season—May, June, and July—when Canadian sealing is forbidden by the regulations of the Paris award.

August 14.—The British ship *Algerine* sailed to-day for Bering Sea.

August 15.—The *Tahoma* sailed for Seattle.

August 17.—The *Rush* arrived this morning reporting that the *Homer* had been delayed at the islands by bad weather.

The Canadian sealer, *Thomas F. Bayard*, Capt. Hans Blackstad, sailed into Dutch Harbor this afternoon with her flag at half mast. I accompanied Deputy Collector Bull-Shannon on board the schooner. The captain explained his flag by saying that he had buried a man at sea a day or two before, but put his flag up at the suggestion of the collector, who sealed up the vessel's guns.

The *Bayard* had a crew of 36 men, 7 white men, the rest Indian hunters. She was engaged in sea otter hunting off Sennak in June when boarded by the *Bear*. Capt. Berthof had sealed her rifles and the vessel had then gone to the Asiatic side to seal there until the 1st of August. She had 103 skins of fur seals taken off the Commander Islands. The other two vessels boarded by the *Bear* on June 23 also engaged in sealing on the Asiatic side. The *Bayard* had returned to enter upon sealing in Bering Sea. The captain said he expected to find good sealing grounds 90 to 150 miles to the northeast of the Pribilofs. The vessel was not allowed to take water or to purchase supplies and was required to leave the harbor with as little delay as possible. She tried to beat her way out against a strong head wind, making little headway, and a thick fog drifting in about her, she returned to her anchorage in the evening.

August 18.—The fog was very thick this morning and absolute calm prevailed. The fog lifted in the course of the forenoon showing the *Bayard* still in port. She took in water from a small stream across the bay, bringing it over in her canoes. Late in the afternoon a breeze sprang up and she was able to get out into Bering Sea.

Capt. Jacobs sent me the following additional data brought in by the *Rush:*

Vessel.	Master.	Port.	Boarding vessel.	Date.	Skins.
Eiun Maru, 2	Chi	Tokyo	Rush	Aug. 14	450
Chitose Maru	Mizukamy	do	do	do	800
Boso Maru, 2	Yamanaka	Minato	do	do	200
Hokushin Maru	Kinshita	Sendai	do	Aug. 6	86

The last-named schooner had not previously been boarded and raises the number of Japanese vessels to 18. The other three vessels as reported to July 31 had, respectively, 148, 155, and 96 skins. The 302 additional skins in the case of the *Eiun Maru* represents a month's sealing, as do also the 104 in the case of the *Boso Maru*, and neither case is remarkable. The case of the *Chitose Maru, 2*, reported on July 26 with 155 skins, and on August 1 with 800, if the reports are correctly given, represents a remarkable gain. These three vessels were boarded east by south from East Landing of St. Paul Island at distances of, respectively, 20, 35, and 30 miles.

Making these additions to the list of catches already reported, the total Japanese catch to date is 4,383 skins.

August 19.—The North American Commercial Co.'s steamer *Homer* arrived at Dutch Harbor at noon to-day. Closely following her came the British patrol ship *Algerine*.

August 20.—The *Homer* sails for San Francisco at 10 o'clock a. m.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 9, 1909.

Mr. GEO. A. CLARK,
Stanford University, Cal.

SIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 1st instant, together with your report on the conditions on the seal islands as observed by you during your recent visit. This report will no doubt be very valuable to the advisory board of the fur-seal service and to the fur-seal board when they have a meeting some time this fall.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, November 1, 1909.

Mr. GEO. A. CLARK,
Stanford University, Cal.

SIR: Your orders of May 7, 1909 (No. 547), are hereby extended to April 1, 1910, and you are instructed to come to Washington for the purpose of explaining and further elucidating your report on the condition of the fur-seal herd based on your observations during the past summer.

You will be allowed a compensation of $10 for the time so employed and your necessary expenses of travel and subsistence during the performance of such duty, payable from the appropriation "Statistics and methods of the fisheries."

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

[Telegram.]

PACIFIC GROVE, CAL., 16.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Have no orders for 23d; must leave 6 to-night.

GEORGE A. CLARK.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, November 17, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Assuming that you have read and carefully considered the fur-seal report recently made by Mr. George A. Clark, who visited the islands during the past summer, I desire that you prepare a statement of your views regarding the report, particularly with reference to such data and conclusions contained therein as do not agree with your understanding of the facts and conditions.

Kindly let me have this statement in form convenient for use at the conference of the advisory board next Tuesday.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

ANALYSIS OF THE REPORT ON THE SEAL FISHERIES, 1909, OF MR. G. A. CLARK.

In preparing this memorandum it must be understood that it is not submitted in a spirit of unfavorable criticism, since, in the main, Mr. Clark's ideas coincide with mine, and since nowhere in the report does Mr. Clark seek to discredit the actions of the agents on the islands, but, on the contrary, is rather favorable to them than otherwise.

It is impossible, however, for two men to study the same subject and arrive at exactly the same conclusions. In reading this report I find that there are certain points of divergence between Mr. Clark's conclusions and mine. It is my purpose to indicate these points and to state wherein the conclusions differ. The appended notes follow, as nearly as possible, categorically, Mr. Clark's arrangement:

On page 21 Mr. Clark states:

"A proper provision for maintaing a reserve of male life is one which insures not a buffer of idle adult bulls about the breeding grounds, but a plentiful supply of young bulls growing up to take the places of those which fail to reappear in the spring."

I can hardly agree with Mr. Clark on this point. The presence or absence of idle adult bulls on a rookery forms the only safe means of determining whether or not there is a sufficiency of male life. There is no method by which we may decide with certainty how many cows a bull can serve or to what limit the bulls on the rookeries might be reduced with safety after the supply of surplus bulls is exhausted. With a number of idle bulls present, we are sure that the powers of the harem masters are not unduly taxed. Eliminate the idle bulls entirely, however, and we are forced to theorize in the treatment of the questions whether the number of bulls present is sufficient and whether all cows are impregnated. The destruction of the supply of idle bulls, therefore, marks the line beyond which it is not possible to go with certainty of safety. In this view I am borne out by the conclusions of Dr. F. A. Lucas (Fur Seal Inves. Com., pt. 3, p. 53).

To maintain proper conditions of course it is necessary to have a "plentiful supply of young bulls growing up to take the places of those which fail to reappear in the spring." Were this supply not in existence the breeding bulls would disappear altogether. But the question whether or not there is a sufficiency of adult male life on the rookeries can be judged only by the presence, on the contrary, of idle adult bulls on the rookeries waiting to take the places of such harem masters as may have reached the limit of their procreative powers before the end of the season.

On page 34 Mr. Clark approaches the question of equilibrium of the herd during the years 1906–1909, both inclusive, basing it upon the similarity of the pup counts for Kitovi and North rookeries for these years, as well as upon a yearly catch of 15,000 bachelors and a (supposed) heavy decrease in the pelagic catch.

This question, of course, always will remain an open one, in view of our lack of exact knowledge of the numbers in the herd. I am inclined to doubt, however, that any equilibrium extended over the whole period mentioned. It may have occurred between the years 1907 and 1908, but the general trend of the herd in any extended period has been toward decrease more or less gradual, and there is ground for believing that it occurred during the years mentioned, although not to the degree believed by some.

In considering the bases upon which Mr. Clark places his claim of equilibrium, we will take first the similarity of the pup counts of 1906–1909, both inclusive, on Kitovi and North rookeries. Kitovi, during this period, was practically stable in its numbers; North, on the other hand, shows an increase of 300 between 1906 and 1907, no variation between 1907 and 1908, and a decrease of over 300 between 1908 and 1909.

Mr. Clark dismisses the variation apparent on North rookery by ascribing it to "inaccuracies in counting." The counting, however, during the years in question was done in the same manner from year to year, and such inaccuracies as occurred would be present in all years, thereby making the count consistent. I would be willing to accept the St. George count as approximately correct and to ascribe the increase on North rookery to an influx of cows from St. Paul, driven away by the concentration of the pelagic fleet at that island. We know that a considerable migration of bachelors occurred from St. Paul to St. George in 1907 and 1908 from this cause, and it is fair to believe that a certain number of cows migrated as well. The decrease in 1909 on North amounted to 7 per cent and assuredly would not indicate an equilibrium.

But the main point of objection to Mr. Clark's method is the fact that he accepts the conditions on one rookery on each island as typical of all, when, as a matter of fact, there is no just ground for this assumption. During the period that Kitovi rookery has remained stable, other rookeries on the same island have suffered a visible contraction of the space occupied by breeding seals. In other words, a decrease has occurred on other rookeries, while Kitovi has remained the same in point of numbers. There have been certain portions of breeding ground almost abandoned by seals during the period in which Mr. Clark claims an equilibrium. The same has occurred on St. George as well. It is my opinion that localities on which seals are known to be decreasing should be considered before the fact of an equilibrium is announced.

When we consider the second ground for claiming an equilibrium—the stability of the quota of seals killed—several reasons can be found for believing that an equilibrium did not occur except possibly between the years 1907 and 1908. In 1906 there was a decided scarcity of bachelors, and the quota of 15,000 for that year would not have been obtained had not the department reduced the minimum weight of skins to be taken from 5½ to 5 pounds. This shows a decided diminution rather than an equilibrium. In 1907, however, the quota was secured before the end of the season, and shows that the supply of bachelors had not diminished between 1906 and 1907. In 1908 the quota was obtained, but not until the end of the season, indicating fewer seals present

than in 1907. In 1909 the quota was not obtained in spite of all efforts, and indicated a decided decrease in the number of bachelors.

From this viewpoint, I fail to see how Mr. Clark can claim an equilibrium in seal life, except during the period between 1906 and 1907, and then, on the showing made by the bachelors, an increase occurred rather than an equilibrium.

The third point on which Mr. Clark claims an equilibrium is the decided decline in the pelagic catch. The figures given by him showing the size of the pelagic catch are as follows:

1906	20,885
1907	14,879
1908 (incomplete)	4,954
1909	4,956

Those figures for 1906 and 1907 are based upon London trade sales and are relatively correct, except that the completed list for those years shows more skins taken; those for 1908 were taken from the returns of the American consul at Victoria; those for 1909 are based upon estimates of revenue-cutter officers in Bering Sea last summer.

Taken as a whole, the foregoing table does show a great decline in the pelagic catch, but as stated by Mr. Clark they are incomplete. A revised table, based upon the latest reports of trade sales in London, shows the following as the pelagic catches for these years:

1906	21,236
1907	16,036
1908	18,151
1909 (incomplete)	14,142

Those catches for 1906, 1907, and 1908 have been reported by Mr. Alfred Fraser, of New York City. The skins taken in 1909 have not yet been sold. The Japanese catch of 1909, however, is estimated by Capt. Jacobs, of the Revenue-Cutter Service, at 10,000, while the United States consul at Victoria reports a Canadian catch of 3,742, and an Indian coast catch of over 400 is known to have been secured. When we consider that the reports from Victoria in past years have been not more than 50 per cent of the whole number taken, it may safely be estimated that the catch for 1909 will fall little short of that for 1908 and prior years.

This revised table contains no evidence that the pelagic catch has decreased materially, for which reason arguments seeking to establish an equilibrium of the herd based upon the decline of pelagic sealing must have little value.

From all this we must conclude that the evidence tending to show an equilibrium in the herd from 1906 to 1909 is weak, and that, on the other hand, there are certain facts pointing strongly to the herd's decline during this period.

On page 42 Mr. Clark takes up the question of the reserve of bachelors, which was begun in 1904 and continued each year thereafter. He states that the method of reserving the breeding animal by clipping its head with sheep shears seems open to considerable criticism and has apparently been only moderately successful.

The reasons why the plan is unsuccessful as given by Mr. Clark are: First, that the mark placed upon these seals is a temporary one, which is obliterated the next season; and, second, that despite these reservations the herd of bulls has increased but little as a result.

It would seem to me that the fact that the decline in the numbers of breeding bulls on the rookeries has been checked and an increase substituted as the result of this system of reserving young males would of itself answer any criticism as to its utility and value. When, in 1904, this system was inaugurated, the agents were facing a steady annual decrease in breeding bulls of from 20 to 30 per cent. In making a reservation of 3-year-olds for breeders in that year they could not look for any result until at least four years thereafter, or 1908, when the first of these animals would reach maturity. The full effect could not be felt until 1909, when the first reservation would be 8 years old and full-grown bulls.

During this interim, from 1904 to 1909, the full-grown bulls on the rookeries would continue to drop off from old age and other causes. The first recruits would have to fill up these gaps in the breeding bulls occurring from death before it was possible for them to show any increase in the numbers of male breeders.

That they did not only stop the decline in 1909, but actually show an increase, is proof of the efficacy of the plan. This increase, it is true, was not large, but it was the first that has occurred in breeding bulls for years.

Mr. Clark seems to be in error in estimating the number of animals that should appear on the rookeries from these reservations. He infers that the 2,000 bachelors reserved each year all should reappear upon the rookeries at the proper time as bulls.

Such was not the intention of the department at the time these regulations first were made, and such a result can not be expected from the plan when placed in operation. The practice has been to reserve 1,000 3-year-old and 1,000 2-year-old bachelors each year. The 1,000 3-year-olds were expected to reappear the following year as 4-year-olds and to be exempt from killing. The 2-year-olds, on the other hand, were reserved solely for the purpose of insuring a supply of 3-year-olds the next year and to prevent too close killing. It was understood at the time that the 2-year-olds would be liable to be killed the following year, but this exemption from slaughter as 2-year-olds would insure their presence the following year as 3-year-olds, and these latter were depended upon to form the actual breeding reserve. For this reason, in estimating the number which should appear as breeders, only the 1,000 3-year-olds should be considered; and not the 2-year-olds, the supply of which acts merely as a feeder to the 3-year-olds.

During the six years in which bachelors have been reserved, 6,000 3-year-olds were released for breeding purposes. It may be possible to follow their progress from year to year to ascertain what number of these should be expected to appear as bulls. A mortality of 10 per cent for losses should be allowed. The following table will show how these animals progress from year to year:

	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
3-year-olds	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
4-year-olds	.....	900	900	900	900	900
5-year-olds	.....	.....	810	810	810	810
6-year-olds	.....	.....	.....	729	729	729
7-year-olds	.....	.....	.....	.....	647	647
Adult bulls	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	583

From this table we can see that we should have in 1909, from the reservation of 3-year-olds in 1904, 583 adult bulls and 647 7-year-olds. This does not mean, of course, that the number of bulls present in 1908 would be increased by the number of new bulls noted above, for quite a few of the 1908 bulls would have died by the following year. It means that these young bulls would be available to offset the mortality among adult bulls occurring during the interval between the seasons of 1908 and 1909. Any increase in bulls noted in the latter year would represent the excess of incoming new bulls over the loss by death of old bulls. The fact that there occurred in 1909 an increase in adult bulls and in 7-year-old bulls amounting to 83 demonstrates the efficiency of the regulations.

Mr. Clark contends that the result should have been more pronounced—that in fact more bulls should have appeared. Theoretically more should have appeared, but our theories are based upon the knowledge of only a few facts connected with seal life after they leave the land. What the mortality among these animals is from their natural enemies and pelagic sealing can not be ascertained, but undoubtedly it is large. From the experiment we have learned simply that a reservation of 2,000 bachelors each year will not deliver the entire reservation on the rookeries as bulls five years hence, and that if we want more bulls than actually appeared we must have a larger reservation.

In the six years in which these regulations have been in force the entire aspect of rookery bulls has been changed. To-day there is hardly an old bull upon the rookeries. Seventy-five per cent of the breeding males are young males. These have had to be supplied as the old bulls died off. That there were enough young males to fill the gaps and to even create a surplus is gratifying, to say the least.

Mr. Clark himself says, page 44:

"Whatever may be said of the shortcomings of this method of creating a breeding reserve, the fact remains that an entirely adequate reserve of bulls, young and old, has been maintained, and this reserve is on the increase."

Mr. Clark believes that electric cautery or hot-iron brands would be a better means of marking young bachelors than sheep shears. Electric cautery was tried in 1896–97 and was a failure because of the wires fusing or for some other reason. Hot irons have been tried by us. Besides being cruel and a distinct means of torture, the hot irons had no effect on wet seals. The moisture in the fur created steam which scalded the animal when the iron was applied. Sheep shears do not leave a permanent brand it is true, but they leave a mark perfectly apparent during the season, and that is sufficient to allow the 3-year-olds to pass into the exempt or 4-year class. Furthermore, shears can be used in wet or dry weather and the use of them is not open to a charge of cruelty.

We come now to Mr. Clark's statement that the lessee swept the hauling grounds clear of bachelors; that they killed every 2-year-old bachelor; and that they killed as close in 1909 as the old company did in 1889.

We are met at the outset by a considerable apparent divergence between Mr. Clark's statements in his report. In his census of seal life, on page 51½ he leaves a blank in the column opposite the "2-year-old males" and appends a footnote that they are "in quota of 1909." As contrasted with this, on pages 49 and 50, Mr. Clark states that there should have been 15,000 2-year-olds in the herd in 1909; that only 9,000 approximately were killed or reserved for breeding, and that "we are forced therefore to believe that, in addition to the 9,000 already accounted for, there are other animals of the 2-year-old class which either have not appeared on the hauling grounds during the season or were killed last season as yearlings." He then states that it is hardly possible that they were killed as yearlings and probably are at sea.

According to Mr. Clark's own estimate, therefore, there would be in the neighborhood of 6,000 2-year-olds in existence in 1909 that had not been killed. Why he should eliminate this 6,000 from his census of seal life is conjectural.

In this new light thrown upon the situation, it is difficult to see how killing was too close and how Mr. Clark can substantiate his statement that there will be no 3-year-olds in 1910. The difference between Mr. Clark's estimate of 15,000 2-year-olds present in 1909 and the number killed or branded, 9,000, must be 6,000 2-year-olds, from which the 1910 3-year-olds will come.

We next come to the statement (p. 57) that the present lessee "cleaned up the hauling grounds in 1909." This statement, Mr. Clark says in the next paragraph, is not made for the purpose of criticism of close killing at the present time. "With a hostile fleet on the 3-mile limit * * * and ample breeding reserves being provided for, it has been wise to take every possible animal bearing a skin on which the lessees would pay the royalty." It is made, therefore, simply to record the honest belief of Mr. Clark that the killing in 1909 was as close as in 1889.

We will now see how close the killing was in 1909. The animals killed in that year averaged 69 per cent of those driven on St. Paul and 63 per cent on St. George. This was 4 per cent closer on St. Paul and 17 per cent closer on St. George than in 1908. With all this, the quota of 15,000 bachelors was not secured.

The killing, therefore, amounted virtually to 66 per cent, or two-thirds of all animals driven. One-third, or 33 per cent, of animals driven were released. It is submitted that with one animal released out of every three driven, killing was not so close as would be believed when the general statement of Mr. Clark was first encountered.

We must next consider the number of animals released from the killing fields and the number of males required to fill up the gaps in the ranks of adult bulls. The herd at the present time numbers 1,400 breeding bulls with harems. The average life of the breeding bull is 5 years after he begins full rookery service at 8 years. As the herd, therefore, would renew itself in five years, a yearly diminution of one-fifth occurs and is necessary to be provided for.

With a herd of 1,400 animals, it would be necessary to insure the fact that at least one-fifth of this number of adult bulls be provided five years hence, or 280 animals. During the season of 1909 there occurred 4,091 rejections of seals from the drives. Of these, 1,740 were too large to be hereafter killed and 2,351 too small to kill or included in the breeding reserve. In addition to these, there were numbers of animals that were not driven at all. On August 4, with Mr. Clark, the agents discovered a drive of approximately 600 killable bachelors hauled back of the cows on Tolstoi Cliffs, the existence of which theretofore was unknown to the lessees. As the killing season closed on July 31, these animals could not be killed this season. Mr. Clark himself infers elsewhere in his report that 6,000 2-year-olds survived or were not driven by the lessee.

When we consider that only 280 new bulls are required each year to maintain the breeding herd at its present numbers and that from 5,000 to 6,000 young males are believed to have survived the season of 1909 (so far as we know), it can not be believed that the killing in 1909 was so close as to endanger in any way the safety of the herd.

We must now consider whether killing in 1909 was as close as in 1889. In this latter year, 1889, no restriction whatever was placed upon the killing of bachelors further than that the quota of 100,000 could not be exceeded and seals less than 1 year of age might not be killed. Any male 1 year of age and over was killable.

No record of the number of seals released from the killing fields in 1889 was made and none is in existence. It is not possible, therefore, for Mr. Clark, who was not on the islands in 1889, to form any correct judgment as to how the killing of 1909 compares with 1889 or to criticize the killing of 1909, for which there is exact data, in the light of the killing of 1889, for which there is no data, except the number of skins secured.

There are on record general statements to the effect that bachelors were scarce in 1889 and that the old lessee killed everything from the cradle to the grave in order to secure its 100,000 skins. Such statements are being made concerning the present lessee.

It is not my purpose to defend either. In justice to the old lessee, however, it may be stated that over 20,000 3-year-old skins were taken in 1890 by the new lessee after the old lessee is supposed to have taken every young male in existence the year before. To have gotten 20,000 3-year-olds in 1890 means that at least 20,000 2-year-olds must have been spared from killing in 1889, when killing was supposed to be so close. So that killing in 1889 could not have included every killable seal by any means.

The main point of difference between killing in 1889 and 1909 lies in the fact that regulations are in force at the present date specially designed to prevent too close killing which were not thought of in 1889. Before any killing by the lessee was allowed in 1909, 2,000 young killable males were reserved for breeding by the agents and marked so that they would be thereafter readily discernible by the clubbers. This reservation of 2,000 represents 13 per cent of the quota allowed the lessee. So that before the lessee took a single skin in 1909 the herd was safeguarded by a reservation of males equal to 13 per cent of the quota. Under such regulations as these it is impossible for killing at the present time to be too close, even if after reserving these killables the lessee "swept the hauling grounds" to obtain its quota. It could not sweep them so close as to eliminate this 13 per cent breeding reservation unless the marked seals themselves were killed also, and Mr. Clark distinctly states that these marked seals were carefully guarded when they appeared in the drives.

Such killing as was done in 1909 was done strictly in accordance with law and regulations. The Government prescribed a quota of 15,000 for the lessee, and virtually said to it: "After we have secured our breeding reserve you are allowed to kill every killable seal on the hauling grounds that you can find until you get your quota. You must exempt cows and take only those skins weighing over 5 pounds and under 8½ pounds." This was the exact situation in 1909, and in the killing no law or regulation was disregarded. During the entire killing year of 1909 on St. Paul but 16 skins were taken under 5 pounds and 19 over 8½ pounds, and all but one of these were taken in food drives by the natives.

When Mr. Clark states on page 50 that the killing ranged from 4-pound skins to 14½-pound skins, he is literally correct, but conveys an entirely wrong impression by his statement. There was one 4-pound skin taken and one 14-pound skin taken. These were taken by accident by the natives in food drives. But he did not state that only one outside the weights prescribed was taken by the lessee on St. Paul and only four on St. George. Had he done so he would have so qualified his remark as to show that no violation of regulations was either intended or committed.

To sum up, we find that Mr. Clark's statement that all 2-year-olds were killed in 1909 is negatived by his own statement in another portion of his report that probably 6,000 of these animals survived; that it is shown that practically 6,000 young males survived the season in question when only 280 of these are required to mature as breeders to preserve the herd of males at its present numbers, and that with the enforcement of existing regulations it was impossible to kill as closely in 1909 as it was in 1889, however close the killing in that year actually might have been.

It is hard to conceive how, in the light of Mr. Clark's reference to close killing, he should recommend the reduction of the bachelor breeding reserve from 2,000 to 500. This bachelor reserve is the only exact safeguard against close killing. To eliminate it would place the situation where it was in 1889, for instance, when the lessee could kill any male it pleased. If, as Mr. Clark claims, close killing was practiced, it would be logical to increase the bachelor reserve rather than to reduce it.

W. I. Lembkey.

November, 1909.

Part V.—Instructions and Reports Relative to Pribilof Bird Reservation.

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, April 15, 1909.

Mr. W. I. Lembkey,
Agent Fur-Seal Service.

Sir: In order to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the purpose of Executive Order No. 1044, dated February 27, 1909, setting aside Walrus and Otter Islands as a bird reservation to be known as the Pribilof Reservation, I have designated Mr. James Judge a warden to have immediate supervision, under your general direction, of all matters pertaining to the birds not only of the reservation but of the entire Pribilof group.

There is inclosed herewith a letter of instructions for Mr. Judge's guidance. You will cooperate with Mr. Judge and render him every proper assistance in carrying out these instructions.

Respectfully,

Geo. M. Bowers, *Commissioner.*

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, April 16, 1909.

Mr. W. I. Lembkey,
Agent Fur-Seal Service.

Sir: It is my desire that Assistant Agent James Judge, who has been designated as special warden in charge of the Pribilof Reservation, shall acquaint himself as fully as possible with the avi-fauna of the Pribilof Islands, paying particular attention to Walrus Island. The following outline of investigations, which you will regard as his instructions, is given for his guidance:

WALRUS ISLAND.

Physical features.—Examine the island as thoroughly as possible and draw up a detailed description of it, giving position, area, character of rock and surface, character of shores, landings, etc.; elevation, topography, etc.

Biological features.—Compile all obtainable knowledge and information regarding the plants, insects, mammals, and other life on or about the island.

Plants.—What plants, if any, occur on this island; where do they occur; their habits; to what extent are they utilized by the birds in nest-building or otherwise.

Walrus.—Compile all obtainable information regarding the occurrence of the walrus at this island; the same for sea lions, seals, sea otters, and any other mammals that are known to have occurred there.

Birds.—These will receive most attention and should be studied comprehensively and thoroughly. List all the species known to occur on the island, determining those which are permanent residents

(i. e., present throughout the year); winter visitors (i. e., those coming to the island only in winter); stragglers (or those of irregular and rare occurrence); spring and fall migrants (or those species stopping at the island only for a brief time during their spring and fall migrations and not breeding on the island); and summer residents (i. e., those species which arrive upon the island in the spring, remain through the summer, lay their eggs, rear their young, and leave in the fall). The permanent residents and the summer residents (i. e., the species that breed on the island) are the ones which can be studied most thoroughly. Each species should be studied as fully as possible, as indicated in the following outline:

Arrival at the island (if not a permanent resident), meteorological conditions, such as direction and strength of wind at that time; same data for departure; abundance (relative and actual); breeding habits, including time of nesting, construction, location, character, and care of nest; number of eggs laid, incubation period, and by which parent accomplished; to what extent will other eggs be laid if the first are destroyed; the young, appearance, when hatched, feeding and care, growth and leaving nest; feeding and food of adults, what the food is, where and how obtained, and relation to supply of food-fishes, fox food, other birds, etc.; destruction of eggs and young by other birds or other agencies; mortality among the birds from disease, enemies, climate, etc.

Make a special study of the egg-collecting operations of the natives, when the practice began and how it has been conducted; years in which eggs have been gathered; exact dates of cleaning-off trips, number of eggs of each species removed when cleaning off the ground, disposition made of these eggs, and area cleaned off; exact dates of collecting trips, area collected over, number of eggs of each species obtained, whether the disturbance of egg-collecting results in any destruction of eggs or young by the birds themselves; association of different species on nesting ground; how the nests of different species are distributed or grouped.

While it is desired that you give attention to all phases of the bird life of Walrus Island, the primary object of your investigations will be the securing of knowledge as to the actual conditions obtaining on that island, including the effects of egging operations by the natives, in order that regulations may be provided which will adequately protect the bird rookeries from serious depletion.

ST. PAUL, ST. GEORGE, AND OTTER ISLANDS.

While only Walrus and Otter Islands are included in the Pribilof Reservation, it is desired that the birds on all the islands be properly and fully protected. The instructions for the study of Walrus Island should be applied, in so far as they may be applicable, to each of the other islands.

It is understood that the natives of St. George Island utilize to some extent the eggs of birds nesting on that island. This practice should receive the same study and consideration as is given to Walrus Island, to the end that the bird rookeries may continue to yield a supply of eggs to be used as food by the natives without any serious diminution in the number of birds.

As Assistant James Judge has been designated as a special warden in charge of the Pribilof Reservation, he is charged with carrying out the instructions regarding Walrus and Otter Islands; and as he will be on St. Paul Island until the fall of 1910, he will also make such studies of the birds of that island as his other duties permit. Maj. Clark will do the same for St. George Island.

In order that these investigations may be carried on properly and effectively it is important that there be cordial cooperation among all concerned. Doubtless the active interest and assistance of some of the natives can be secured by showing them that the one important object in view is to insure to them the permanency of the supply of this article of food.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 15 last, notifying me that you have designated Mr. James Judge a warden to have supervision over the reservation created by Executive Order No. 1044, dated February 27, 1909, embracing Walrus and Otter Islands and adjacent waters, and inclosing a letter containing instructions to Mr. Judge to govern his action as said warden.

In reply, I have to state that I have furnished copies of the letters mentioned to Mr. Judge. I suggest that Agent Judge be furnished with a draft of the reservation, showing the waters embraced, such as is in the possession of the captains commanding revenue cutters on patrol.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 15, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Fur-Seal Service, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: There is inclosed herewith a copy of a letter from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture, authorizing the natives on St. Paul Island to land and collect eggs on Walrus Island once during the season of 1909.

Please communicate the information contained in this letter to Assistant Agent James Judge, who has been placed in charge of the Pribilof Reservation.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th ultimo, containing a copy of a letter from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture, authorizing the natives of St. Paul Island to land on Walrus Island and to collect eggs there once during the season of 1909.

In reply, I have to state that the information mentioned has been communicated to Assistant Agent Judge, the warden of the Pribilof Reservation.

Respectfully,
W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
August 16, 1909.

Dr. BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR DR. EVERMANN: I beg to acknowledge the receipt through the courtesy of Mr. George A. Clark of your letter of May 26 last, and also of the drills and blowpipe kindly forwarded by you. In regard to the eggs desired by the National Museum, all can probably be procured next season in the quantities designated, excepting Steller's eider and the Harlequin duck, the former of which, according to the best information obtainable, never nests here and the latter rarely if ever.

As opportunity afforded since my arrival, I collected eggs of perhaps half the birds nesting here, and intend if possible to collect specimens of the remainder next season and forward the whole to the National Museum, together with their specific requisition, on my return in the fall.

Before navigation closes this year I will forward a special report of the conditions on Walrus Island in order that suitable regulations may be promulgated for the taking of eggs therefrom by the native residents of this island.

Very respectfully,
JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Islands.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *October 12, 1909.*

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of conditions on Walrus Island during the past season. My opportunities for observation were restricted to three visits to the island on the following dates, to wit: June 21, September 2, September 21.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Walrus Island lies practically north and south and is situated in latitude 57° 11′ N. and 169° 56′ W. longitude and is, according to map measurements, about 2,200 feet long and 400 feet in width at the widest part, and has an area of perhaps 80,000 square yards. The greatest elevation is 22 feet. There are detached outlying rocks at either end and on the west side. The formation is approximately two-thirds lava deposits and one-third basaltic bowlders, the latter being very prominent in the make-up of the northern half of the island. The southern half forms a plateau which gradually slopes upward from a narrow neck near the middle to the extreme southwestern and highest point. Considerable of this plateau is covered with fine grass which grows in tufts 6 to 10 inches across the top and about 8 inches high. Near the southern end is a bare spot of about 1,500 square feet, which shows the only soil visible on the island. The extreme southwest, south, and southeast portions of the island terminate in abrupt cliffs of lava, the highest of which is 20 feet at the top and forms an almost level table 50 to 100 feet inland, bare of vegetation. All rocks along the shore and the base of the cliffs are covered with lichens and other marine growth. There are two fairly good landings, nearly opposite each other, on the east and west sides, respectively, but as the water is deep in both of these, boats coming in should be moored bow and stern and allowed to ride clear.

BIRD LIFE AND ITS DISTRIBUTION.

While great numbers of breeding birds frequent the island, the life itself is confined to very few species. Aside from a limited number of kittiwakes and small auks, the birds observed and the order of their importance, at least in numbers, were as follows: Arries, gulls, puffins, and cormorants.

ARRIES.

These numerous and interesting birds occupy the lava faces and tops of the cliffs, laying their colored and ornate eggs promiscuously on any convenient shelf on the face of the cliffs, and when these are filled the overflow spreads inland on the top rock for considerable distances. The birds build no nests, and the eggs are laid in close proximity to one another. One egg is laid and hatching begins. If this egg is removed or any accident happens it, the natives assert that it will be replaced by a second, which if likewise removed will be replaced by another, and so on until four have been laid. In hatching, the bird maintains an upright position, covering the egg with its tail feathers, and turning the egg from time to time with its feet. It would seem that the male assists in the hatching and protects the egg when the female goes to feed. When arrie eggs are left uncovered the gulls break many of them, apparently out of pure wantonness, as they seem to devour little of what they destroy. Any commotion in the vicinity of the cliffs where the arries are causes a great loss of eggs, as the birds when frightened fly away and tumble their eggs down to the rocks below, where they are broken. When the birds located on the table rock above are disturbed and fly away, they frequently start their eggs rolling, some traveling considerable distances

without being broken. It is these eggs which furnish the gull his opportunity for mischief. Mr. Chichester informs me that the young arrie makes its first trip to sea on its mother's back.

While the arries are distributed generally over the island they are to be found in greatest numbers at the south end. Beginning at the boat landing on the west side and going around the south end of the island, and thence north on the east side until the end of the grassy plateau is reached, is a distance of about 1,500 feet. On this portion of the island the cliffs tower in a practical perpendicular line 16 to 20 feet above the water. These cliffs are indented with irregular shelves, some large enough for only a few birds, others accommodating hundreds. On the top of these cliffs, extending inland from 10 to 80 feet, the birds are huddled close together, the whole affording a grand exhibition of bird life, accompanied with a considerable amount of filth. At a point about 400 feet north of the boat landing on the east side, arries again become thick and continue so for a distance of 400 feet, but the cliffs are not so high, nor do the overflow birds on the top rock extend as far inland, as is the case at the south end. The extreme north end of the island is low and affords no bird life at all. At the northeast point there are three small patches of arries, each with a small overflow on top. From the northeast point to boat landing on the west side there is only one small patch of arries.

The cliffs whose faces are largely filled with birds, principally arries, measure about 2,000 feet; the entire coast line is probably 6,500 feet, so that the birds occupy approximately four-thirteenths of the whole. The overflow on the top of the 2,000 feet of cliffs occupied extends inland, as noted, from 10 to 80 feet, with an average of about 35 feet, so that the breeding arries occupy about 70,000 square feet of the top rock, as well as nearly every accessible nook and shelf in the cliffs.

GULLS.

The only member of this family noticed on Walrus Island, in any number, was the so-called "chikie." These birds build nests of the grass and grass roots found on the island; many of which were as green June 21 as the adjacent grass. One nest was found built partly of grass, partly of kelp, and was quite damp. These nests were situated a few feet behind the inner line of arries and all over the grassy plateaus and in close proximity to each other. They are quite large, measuring 12 or 15 inches in diameter, with walls 2 or 3 inches wide at the top.

On June 21 the nests, with few exceptions, contained 3 eggs each. The exceptions contained 2 and 1, respectively, while 1 was reported by a native to have contained 4 eggs. Of 6 eggs taken for specimens all were found in an advanced stage of incubation. One nest containing two chicks, probably a day or two old, was found and the birds brought home by the natives. One of them died en route, but the other grew up and roamed the streets of the village with impunity, and without fear, until the middle of September, when it disappeared. Before its final departure it made short trips to sea, and returned of its own volition.

While on the island June 21 I picked up a ball of mixed hair and fur, about 1½ inches in diameter. The natives informed me that such balls were frequently vomited by the gulls. It is presumed

that the hair and fur thus found comes from dead pups on the rookeries and from the heads of seal carcasses left on the killing fields, on which the gulls feed every autumn.

PUFFINS.

While these birds are numerous on Walrus Island they are secretive in their habits, and with few exceptions hide their eggs in subterranean places. On the plateau at the south end of the island there is, as noted, a spot of perhaps 1,500 square feet of soil entirely bare of grass. This spot is perforated with fox-like holes, the entrance to small tunnels, which evidently lead to crevices in the rocks below, and were said by the natives to be used by the puffins, although very few of them were to be seen in that vicinity. At the north end of the island quite a number were observed, and half a dozen caught as they emerged from crevices between the bowlders. When caught they fought viciously until released. So far as observed the puffin builds no nest, and lays but one egg. On June 21 only one of these eggs was found, although diligent search was made. The scarcity of eggs, together with the fact that the one found was quite fresh, leads to the conclusion that at that date they were just beginning to lay.

CORMORANTS.

These birds are comparatively scarce on Walrus Island. They build nests on small shelves on the face of the cliffs among the arries. The nests are made of longer grass than was observed on the island, and in some cases of fine sea weed or ferns. Occasionally both grass and seaweed were found, the former making up the outside, the latter the inside of the nest. Of about 20 nests examined all were filthy. One contained 4 eggs, another 3, the remainder 2 each. Of 5 eggs taken for specimens, June 21, 4 were fresh and 1 partially incubated.

MAMMALS.

According to statements of the natives a few hair seals and a small number of fur seals haul out on Walrus Island from time to time. It has been many years since walrus were seen in that vicinity, although one was seen off Gorbatch two years ago and Mr. Chichester killed one off St. George last winter. On June 21 a sea lion was hauled on the east side and on September 24 a dead one was found on the west side. Several fur seals were seen in close proximity to the island on each of our visits, but none were observed on shore

EGGING EXPEDITION.

Our visit to Walrus Island, June 21, was principally for the purpose of securing arrie eggs for the natives, under the authority granted by the honorable Secretary of Agriculture May 14 last. Capt. de Otte, of the revenue cutter *Rush*, having kindly consented to transport the party to Walrus Island, 8 natives, Mr. Mills, and I went aboard the morning of that day, and arrived there at noon, our passage having been slow on account of a thick fog. The vessel anchored off the east side, and our boat went into east landing, where

she was secured fore and aft, so as to float in the bight. Each native then took an ordinary candy bucket, carried from the village for the purpose, and went north a few hundred feet to the arries' breeding ground. On the approach of the men the arries at first retreated, and then flew away, and the buckets were soon filled with eggs and carried down to the boat, where they were poured in with such care that very few were broken. The eggs were all fresh and every one was picked up as the men went along. After making one trip on the east side the natives decided it would be less laborious to remove their boat to the other landing, where the eggs were more convenient. Accordingly they pulled around to the west side and began operations by taking their buckets to the table rock above the cliffs and filling and emptying them as before. The process was repeated, the men working hard and without intermission for nearly three hours. By this time the vessel had changed her position to the west side and I presumed the captain was anxious for us to come on board. The natives were loath to quit, especially as the birds had left thousands of eggs uncovered, and right at hand, but as time was flying, a pull of 10 miles to the village in the fog was not a pleasing prospect. Besides this the whaleboat used was about half full, which seemed about as many as former expeditions had returned with, and on actual count greatly exceeded the number estimated by the natives themselves. In the work of gathering, the space gone over was, except for an occasional egg that rolled into a crevice, thoroughly cleaned, and as noted, the eggs being all fresh, none were destroyed purposely and but few accidentally. As the natives pursued their work I stepped off the areas cleaned, finding the whole to amount to approximately 12,151 square feet. On September 21, our last visit to the island, no birds were present, and Dr. Mills and I went over the entire breeding ground with a tape line, finding the whole to amount to about 70,000 square feet. The natives had, therefore, cleaned off about one-sixth of the entire upland breeding ground. Arrie eggs were the only kind taken by the natives.

We arrived at the village anchorage at 5.15 p. m., and were met by Mr. Lembkey in the gasoline launch and towed ashore. On our way from the ship two boys filled one of their buckets with eggs, which I counted and found that 100 filled the pail level full. In removing the eggs from the boat each bucket was filled and shown me for inspection and enumeration before being taken ashore. The total counted out was 65½ buckets, or approximately 6,550 eggs. In addition to this the natives gave the sailors on the *Rush*, who rendered them some assistance, three buckets full, bringing the total up to 6,850. Besides this, the shells of 24 broken eggs were found in the bottom of the boat. The second chief, who was in charge of the party, divided the eggs among the people, remembering every family, including the widows, but taking for himself, and giving the others who assisted in the work, a much larger share. Some ate their allotment within a week, but the more thrifty saved and ate sparingly, so that the last of the eggs were not consumed until the middle of August.

From statements of the natives it appears that in former times Walrus Island was visited oftener during the breeding season, and greater numbers of eggs secured than has been the case recently. Numbers of these eggs were saved for winter use, sometimes by bury-

ing in sand or salt, with the large end down, sometimes by immersing them in seal oil, either before or after being cooked. The reports are contradictory as to the condition of the eggs when finally used. It is, however, a well-known fact that the agents of the Alaska Commercial Co. preserved the eggs successfully in both salt and lime-water.

CONCLUSION.

The temptation to estimate the number of arries, gulls, and cormorants nesting on Walrus Island is great, but I defer doing so until further investigation has proved the correctness of present estimates, and until the bird life of the cliffs has received more attention. I have every reason to believe that the nests of the gulls and cormorants can be counted accurately, or nearly so, and that an estimate, practically correct, can be made of the arries.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I would respectfully recommend that permission be obtained from the honorable Secretary of Agriculture for the natives of St. Paul Island to land and collect eggs on Walrus Island several times next summer, provided the first trip can be made not later than June 26, and that the second and subsequent trips be made within 10 days thereafter, and of each other, and that on these later visits no eggs shall be taken except on the areas previously cleaned off. This would give us an opportunity of acquiring valuable and exact information relative to the bird life of the island, and would supply the natives with a generous amount of nutritious food, without causing any loss or waste through the destruction of partially incubated eggs. If the first trip can not be made as early as the date above mentioned, the natives should be permitted to land and collect once only during the season, as was the case this year.

In this connection I am pleased to state that through the courtesy of the officers of the *Manning* I have secured a quantity of copper rods and plates, and that Mr. Allis, the company's agent and an expert mechanic, has agreed to remove the gasoline engine from her present hull and install it in the whaleboat belonging to the Government, as was intended when the engine was acquired. This boat is, without doubt, one of the strongest and most seaworthy on this island, and renders little or no service at the present time. When this transfer is made we will have a launch that can be used in almost any sort of weather, and should the engine break down or other accident occur, no fear need be entertained for her safety. In visiting Walrus Island in the future the wind, condition of the tide, and other elements usually taken into consideration can be largely eliminated.

Respectfully,

JAMES JUDGE,
Special Warden in Charge of the Pribilof Reservation.

PART VI.—COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO SUPPLIES AND ACCOUNTS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE DISBURSING CLERK,
Washington, January 25, 1909.

SIR: In view of the fact that the fur-seal service has been transferred from the Secretary's office to your bureau, I have to request that you will make a request on the Secretary to have the amount necessary to pay the expenses of furnishing fuel at the Government houses on the islands of St. George and St. Paul and the sum necessary to pay the traveling expenses of the agents to and from the islands during the remainder of this fiscal year and the next fiscal year set aside from the appropriation for contingent expenses, Department of Commerce and Labor, 1909 and 1910.

I understand that the coal which will be bought for the Government houses in the spring and delivered on the islands in the month of June, 1909, will, as a matter of fact, be for use after July 1. Therefore I suggest that you will ask that an amount necessary to purchase this coal be set aside from the appropriation for contingent expenses, Department of Commerce and Labor, 1910.

Respectfully,

W. L. SOLEAU,
Disbursing Clerk.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, February 15, 1909.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the following expenditures will be necessary on account of the seal fisheries, payable from the appropriations designated below, viz:

From appropriation "Contingent expenses, 1909":	
For traveling expenses of two agents from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, May and June, 1909	$600.00
From appropriation "Contingent expenses, 1910":	
For traveling expenses of two agents from the islands to Washington, fall of 1909, and returning spring of 1910	1,200.00
For fuel for Government houses on the Pribilof Islands, 15 tons for each, at $20 per ton	600.00
Total	1,800.00

I have accordingly to request that the amounts named above be set aside from the appropriation indicated in order to meet the expenditures described.

Very respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary Commerce and Labor.

2403—H. Doc. 93, 62-1——58

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 26, 1909.

SIR: I have the honor to request permission to withdraw my letter of February 15, 1909, addressed to you relative to the amount of money that should be reserved for expenses of the seal agents, and to substitute the following:

Expenditures necessary on account of the seal fisheries, payable from the appropriations designated below, will be as follows:

From appropriation "Contingent expenses, 1909":	
For traveling expenses of 2 agents from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, May and June, 1909	$500
From appropriation "Contingent expenses, 1910":	
For traveling expenses of 2 agents from the islands to Washington, fall of 1909, and return, spring of 1910	1,000
For fuel for Government houses on the Pribilof Islands, 15 tons for each, at $20 per ton	600
Total	1,600

I have accordingly to request that the amounts named above be set aside from the appropriation indicated in order to meet the expenditures described.

Very respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 29, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: In accordance with the request in your letter of the 26th instant, the following amounts are hereby set aside from the appropriations noted below to meet the expenditures indicated:

From appropriation "Contingent expenses, 1909":	
For traveling expenses of 2 agents from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, May and June, 1909	$500
From appropriation "Contingent expenses, 1910":	
For traveling expenses of 2 agents from the Pribilof Islands to Washington, D. C., fall of 1909, and return, spring of 1910	1,000
For fuel for Government houses on the Pribilof Islands, 15 tons for each, at $20 per ton	600
Total	1,600

Respectfully,

ORMSBY MCHARG,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 26, 1909.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in the letter dated the 20th instant from the North American Commercial Co., the collector of customs at San Francisco and the deputy collector of customs at Unalaska have been requested to permit the company named to ship from either of said ports to the Pribilof Islands during the current fiscal year liquors for medicinal purposes only and arms and ammunition as follows:

St. Paul Island: Population—native, 176; white, 12; total, 188.
4 barrels beer.
2 cases whisky.
6 kegs whisky (30 gallons).
1 keg brandy (5 gallons).
2 kegs rum (5 gallons each).
1 case gin.
4 cases claret.
2 cases sautern.
2 kegs port wine (5 gallons each).
2 kegs sherry wine (5 gallons each).
20 gallons alcohol.
1 case champagne.
300 pounds powder.
200 cartridges, .44 caliber.
4 single-shot rifles, .22 caliber.

St. George Island: Population—native, 89; white, 8; total, 97.
2 barrels beer.
10 gallons alcohol.
2 kegs whisky (10 gallons each).
2 cases Scotch whisky.
1 keg rum (5 gallons).
1 case champagne.
2 cases claret.
1 case sautern.
1 keg sherry wine (5 gallons).
1 keg port wine (5 gallons).
1 keg brandy (5 gallons).
150 pounds powder.
5,000 cartridges, .22 caliber.
1,000 cartridges, .44 caliber.
3 shotguns (12 gauge).
1 shotgun (16 gauge).

In respect to the liquors above mentioned, the company has been informed that the arbitrary designation of barrels, cases, kegs, etc., may be disregarded and the liquors shipped in packages different from those mentioned, provided the whole amount of each kind of liquor shipped does not exceed the amount specified in the foregoing list.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, June 9, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 26 last, containing authority for the landing by the North American Commercial Co. to land on the Pribilof Islands certain specified liquors and arms and ammunition.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, March 22, 1909.

SIR: With reference to the letter you prepared for my signature on March 15 addressed to the Secretary of War, requesting an additional supply of arms and ammunition for the Pribilof Islands, I beg to advise you that according to the records of the department a supply of the articles mentioned sufficient to answer every requirement short of a premeditated attack by hostile forces is at present in the possession of our seal agents on the islands. Included in this armament is the following: 61 magazine rifles, 12 Colts revolvers, 5 Hotchkiss guns, 3 Gatling guns, 11,500 rounds of rifle cartridges, 2,000 rounds of revolver cartridges, 375 rounds of Hotchkiss loaded shells, 125 rounds of saluting ammunition.

While it is probable that some expenditure of ammunition has occurred since the date of the last ordnance return received from the chief agent, the department seriously doubts if an actual necessity exists at the present time for more than a small quantity of cartridges for the magazine rifles. The armament at present on the islands appears most formidable and would seem to be sufficiently powerful to repulse anything short of an armed invasion.

Will you be good enough to give this matter your thoughtful consideration and inform me at an early date if in your judgment it would not appear best to advise the seal agents that the islands are adequately armed for all practical purposes and to discontinue submitting requisitions for unnecessary arms and ammunition.

In connection with the foregoing the department desires to be furnished with a statement of the amount of ammunition now on hand on the Pribilof Islands, and in future wishes to receive annual ordnance returns giving a comprehensive idea of the expenditure of ammunition.

Respectfully,

WM. R. WHEELER,
Assistant Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C., March 25, 1909.

SIR: Replying to department's letter of the 22d instant, relative to a requisition for ammunition and for 12 revolvers for use on the seal islands, in which doubt is expressed as to the necessity for the articles, etc., I have the honor to state that I deem adequate guarding of the islands of vital importance.

I visited these islands in 1906, at which time 28 schooners were hovering offshore, necessitating the keeping of a guard of a total of 12 men constantly at three different stations on St. Paul and a total of 7 men at two stations on St. George. The villages of both islands were practically armed camps.

Guards are assigned once a week, and each new assignment begins its week of duty with rifle and revolver practice. The Gatling and Hotchkiss guns practice at a floating target three or four times a year, and considerable quantities of ammunition are thus used; but this is the price of efficiency.

The ammunition mentioned in department's letter was landed on the islands in 1907, and has been drawn on for two successive seasons. It is intended to supplement the quantity now on hand with 100 shells for the Hotchkiss gun, 1,500 rounds of revolver and 1,000 rounds of rifle cartridges, a very modest requisition. It would be unwise to reduce the ammunition on the islands to a low point before requesting new supplies, as opportunities for reaching the islands are very infrequent. The possibility of a serious reduction in the supply of ammunition and of a raid at a time when the supply is greatly reduced, before a new supply could reach the islands, would seem to justify the policy of keeping an adequate equipment on hand. There are at present only 12 revolvers on both islands; an additional dozen is therefore requested.

Since my visit the Japanese fleet has increased from 28 to 38 schooners, carrying a total of 800 or 900 men. Many of them are desperate characters, as is evidenced by their destruction last summer of Simoneski Village in American territory, and a village on Bering Island, one of the Russian seal islands. Not only the seal agents, but five captains of revenue cutters on patrol duty in Bering Sea, unite in stating that the Japanese fleet is a menace to the peace of the islands. These cutter captains joined in a report, dated September 30, 1908, recommending that a large force of armed sailors be stationed on each of the islands as a matter of additional protection.

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, supplemented by my personal knowledge of affairs on the islands, I believe that the requisition of the seal agents is proper and should be granted.

Annual ordnance returns will be furnished hereafter, as instructed, and a statement of the ammunition now on the islands will be made as soon as navigation to them is open.

Very respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 30, 1909.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: The department has received your letter of the 25th instant, explaining in detail the necessity of procuring for the Pribilof Islands the arms and ammunition requested in the bureau's communication of March 15.

In view of the additional reasons now advanced, based on your personal knowledge of affairs on the islands, I have decided to request the War Department to ship to the fur-seal islands as early as practicable the following arms and ammunition:

To St. George Island, 500 rounds of revolver ammunition.

To St. Paul Island, 100 loaded shells for Hotchkiss mountain guns, caliber 1.65; 12 Colts revolvers, caliber .38, model 1901; 1,000 rounds ball cartridges for said revolvers; 1,000 rounds ball cartridges for United States magazine rifles, caliber .30, model 1898.

Respectfully,

ORMSBY MCHARG,
Acting Secretary.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
ALASKAN FUR-SEAL FISHERIES,
April 3, 1909.

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this ———.

JAMES JUDGE,
Fur-Seal Agent.

Approved.
T. L. W., *Chief Clerk.*

Item No. 1.
Quantity desired, 2 sets.
Articles: Guides, card, 3 by 5, buff, alphabetical, 25 divisions, duplex punch.
Cost, 26 cents.
Deliver Monday sure.

Received the above April 5, 1909.

H. D. WINANS, *Messenger.*

[Copy.]

SUSPENDED ACCOUNT.

JULY 23, 1909.

Bureau, Fisheries; name, Ezra W. Clark; amount, $145.16.

CAUSE OF SUSPENSION.

1. Letter dated March 27, 1909, Commissioner of Fisheries to W. I. Lembkey, attached to the account, as the authority is not correct. The proper authority is letter dated March 30, 1909, from

the Acting Secretary to W. I. Lembkey. This authority should be given a number and treated the same as other travel orders, referring to the number of the travel order when forwarding vouchers and coupons of transportation requests.

2. Any excess cost for transportation on account of failure to purchase through ticket, Washington, D. C., to Seattle, Wash., will be recovered upon receipt of bill from the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Co.

3. Stop in Chicago from May 5 to 11 without proper authority must be explained. Hour of departure from Washington, hour of arrival at Chicago, and departure from Chicago is not given, therefore the charges for breakfast and lunch on May 5 and dinner May 11 are suspended. (Place where meals are taken should always be indicated.)

4. Charge of $1.50, "baggage from residence to depot," is suspended for explanation showing the number of pieces of baggage and from what part of the city it was transferred.

5. Charge of 60 cents, "small baggage," is suspended for explanation of the service rendered and necessity for the extra baggage.

6. Charge of 50 cents, "cab," is suspended for explanation of the service. Regulations allow carriage hire only when there are no street cars.

7. Charge of 40 cents, "porterage at depot and aboard cars," suspended as in No. 5.

8. Charge of 40 cents, "small baggage checked—trains not connecting," suspended as in No. 5, and if expense was incurred owing to unauthorized stop in Chicago the amount should be disallowed.

9. Charge of 45 cents, "handling small baggage aboard cars, suspended as in No. 5.

10. Charge 40 cents, "small baggage checked, waiting," suspended as in No. 8.

11. Charge 50 cents, "cab," May 14, suspended as in No. 6.

12. Travel authority specifically limits expense for excess baggage to $30 for each agent. Amount disallowed, $7.65.

13. Charge of $1.81, "laundry," suspended for itemization.

14. Charge of 50 cents, "cab," May 19, suspended as in No. 6.

15. Charge of 50 cents, "small baggage," May 19, suspended as in No. 5.

16. Charge of $5, "porterage on *Manning* 12 days, baggage in and out of hold," and charge of $1, "porterage for baggage 4 days on *Manning*," suspended for explanation of service rendered and by whom rendered. If service was performed by employee of the Government whose pay is fixed by law or regulation, the payment of porterage would be in the nature of extra allowance or compensation which is prohibited by law.

17. In addition to the disallowance of $7.95 made by the Bureau of Fisheries on account of excess over $5 per day for board and lodging, May 15 to 18, inclusive, a disallowance of $1.95 should be made on account of excess for May 14.

18. Subvouchers submitted are incomplete and of little value. They are not in proper form, not itemized, and not specific as to dates. He should be supplied with subvoucher Form 527 and instructed to comply with the requirements printed thereon.

19. Old form of travel expense voucher has been used. Proper form is No. 52, approved March 4, 1908.

W. L. SOLEAU,
Disbursing Clerk.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C., October 18, 1910.

The honorable COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to reforward herewith my bill for traveling expenses from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof Islands, incurred in the spring of 1909, the same having been suspended by the disbursing clerk of the department last autumn for explanation of certain items.

I respectfully refer to my letter of June 19, 1909, explanatory of the bill, and add the following further explanation:

(1) My stop in Chicago was authorized by verbal permission of the Assistant Secretary of the department, and with the assent of the commissioner. This indulgence has been permitted me in former years when the delay would not interfere with the Government interests and without a formal leave of absence. The exact date of the vessel's sailing was not determined and I could stop in Chicago without cost to the Government while I could not in Seattle, I keeping in telegraphic communication with the vessel. The expenses charged in Chicago were such only as were necessary in connecting with trains.

(2) My residence in Washington was not on the street car line and the cab was necessary. The charge for baggage from residence was proper. I think there were four pieces, the distance nearly 2 miles. With respect to necessity of extra baggage, I have to state that my field of duty requires me to remain away for a long period in rigorous climate, and it is absolutely necessary for me to carry a considerable outfit of clothing.

(3) The porterage at depot was necessary, as I was starting on a journey of 5,000 or 6,000 miles and had several pieces of small baggage to be assisted with and looked out for in getting aboard the train.

(4) The trains did not connect at Chicago by two or three hours, necessitating the checking of a number of pieces of small baggage required on the journey. The expense was incident to the regular travel.

(5) The charge of 50 cents for cab on May 14 was necessary. The street cars were more than a block distant from the station and the small baggage which I took in the cab would have cost more to send up than the price of the cab.

(6) The laundry expense charged for was necessary; it covered a period of 10 days. An itemized statement could not be obtained.

(7) The cab charge of May 19 was necessary. No street cars were available.

(8) The item of $1.95 suspended as "excess for May 14" seems to me a just charge, and does not come properly under the heading of hotel bills. The whole day was spent on the train.

(9) The porterage on the *Manning* was actually incurred and was necessary. The payment for such services actually rendered by servants on board ship has not been considered as contrary to regulations. It is the only way that one may get proper attention on any vessel during the stress of travel by sea. These are not servants of the Government but of the officers of the vessels.

With respect to hotel bill in Seattle, I wish to submit that in view of the fact that the Alaska-Yukon Exposition was in progress, and the prices at all hotels in that city had been greatly advanced, the bill ought to be allowed as rendered. The hotel at which I stopped is not a first-rate or high-priced hotel. It was not practicable to obtain decent accommodations for the limited price. I lived as simply as I think the Government would wish one of its representatives to live. The circumstances referred to would be taken into consideration by a business concern or a court in adjusting the accounts of employees. In view of the long delay in settlement of this bill I think a liberal construction should be used in passing upon it.

The bill has been transferred to the new form as desired.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) EZRA W. CLARK,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

Approved with exception of amount of excess of $5 per day for subsistence, $9.90; and excess over limit for baggage transfer, $7.65; total, $17.55.

(Signed) GEORGE W. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

DEAR MR. FOWLER: The universal joint did not arrive. Please look it up and reserve for us next year.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

This refers to invoice No. 603, dated March 29, 1909.

PART VII.—AGENTS' PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEETS AND EFFICIENCY REPORTS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
APPOINTMENT DIVISION,
Washington, April 21, 1909.

DEAR MR. DUNLAP: Our records do not show that Harry D. Chichester, assistant, seal fisheries of Alaska, has ever executed a personal history sheet.

Won't you please have Mr. Chichester fill out this sheet as soon as practicable and forward it to the department?

Yours, very truly,

ROBT. M. PINDELL, Jr.,
Acting Chief of Appointment Division.

The CHIEF CLERK BUREAU OF FISHERIES.

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 17, 1906.

To the chiefs of bureaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor:

For the purpose of enabling the department to maintain a complete record of its officers and employees, you are requested to have every person hereafter appointed or employed in your bureau, immediately upon his entrance on duty, answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. The officer in immediate charge should review the information given by the appointee or employee, and if correct, should forward the form to the chief of the bureau without delay. The information called for by the questions in Part II should then be supplied and the form forwarded to the department.

OSCAR S. STRAUS, *Secretary.*

PART I.

[Part I should be executed by the appointee or employee; but, if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case the statement should be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any question, he should indicate that fact.]

1. What is your full name? (Do not use initials, but spell out each name and state whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Example: Mr. John Richard Doe.) Mr. Harry Denison Chichester.

2. How do you write your name on the pay roll? (This should agree with signature to your oath of office.) H. D. Chichester.

3. What is your present legal (voting) residence? (Give city or town, State or Territory, county, and congressional district.) Eagle Pass, Tex.; Maverick County; fifteenth congressional district.

4. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.") White.

5. Where were you born? Port Lavaca, Tex.

6. When were you born? April 20, 1872.

7. Are you pensioned by the U. S. Government? (Answer "Yes" or "No.") No.

8. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below their names, relationships, the departments and bureaus or services in which they are employed and the positions they occupy.) J. W. Chichester, brother, Post Office, postmaster.

9. If you were appointed through a civil serivce examination, state, as near as you recollect, the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "By reinstatement," or "by transfer from ———," stating department, bureau or service, position, and salary, if known.) Special assistant, Treasury; agent examination; April 2, 1901.

10. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.) Have no physical disabilities; eyesight not defective.

11. Have you ever held any other position in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below the department and bureau or service in which you served, the position held, the salary you received, and the dates of your appointment and separation from the service.) For five or six months during the year 1892 as assistant to Mr. J. Stanley-Brown, special Treasury agent engaged in the investigation of seal life on the Pribilof Islands. My appointment began in May, 1892, and terminated in October or November, 1892. I do not remember the amount of salary received.

12. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American War? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) ———.

13. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time other than during the Civil or Spanish-American War, indicate such service in the spaces below. ———.

14. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work

followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service for the Government, indicated in your answers to questions 11, 12, and 13.) Car accountant, Southern Pacific R. R.; clerk Customs & Freight Department, Mexican International R. R.; agent North American Commercial Co., stationed on seal islands.

15. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.) Public school; high school; three years medical school, George Washington University.

16. What special qualifications have you—professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "lawyer," or "civil engineer," or "draftsman," or "carpenter.") Three years of work in medical school, photographer, bookkeeper.

17. What, if any, civil-service examinations have you passed? (Give names and dates as near as you recollect.) Special assistant, Treasury; agent examination; April 2, 1901.

18. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.) Yes.

19. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. June 17, 1909.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Cold Spring Harbor,
Care of J. Stanley-Brown, Long Island, New York.

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded July 13, 1909.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

PART II.

[Part II should be executed by the executive officers of the various bureaus of the department, or, at their direction, by some official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.]

1. State the bureau or service, place, and district in which the person who answered the foregoing questions is employed. Fisheries; Pribilof Islands.
2. To what position has he been appointed? Assistant agent, Alaskan seal fisheries.
3. State the date of appointment. April 27, 1901.
4. State the date the apointment was effective. (If appointment was made to take effect on date of oath, so state.) On oath.
5. State the date of the oath. April 29, 1901.
6. State the date the appointee or employee entered on duty. April 29, 1901.
7. What is his salary? $2,190 per annum.
8. From what appropriation is he paid? Alaskan seal fisheries, salaries.
9. Is the position excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil-service rules? Competitive.
10. If classified, state the date of classification. April 15, 1903.
11. In what manner did the appointee or employee enter the service? Examples: "From stenography and typewriting examination;" or "without examination;" or "by reinstatement;" or "by transfer from ——," stating department, bureau or service, position, and salary, if known.) Selected from civil-service certificate No. 4406, April 28, 1901.
12. Is the appointee or employee required to give bond? No.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

JULY 13, 1909.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 7, 1909.

CHIEF OF DIVISION OF APPOINTMENTS,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: In order to complete the records of this office, will you kindly send to the bureau the personal-history sheets of the Fur-Seal Agents Walter I. Lembkey, James Judge, Harry Chichester, and Ezra W. Clark? You will remember that these persons were transferred to

the bureau some time ago, and there is therefore no record of their original appointments, etc. The sheets will be returned promptly.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
APPOINTMENT DIVISION,
Washington, July 8, 1909.

SIR: In compliance with your request of the 7th instant, for the personal-history sheets in the cases of Fur-Seal Agents Walter I. Lembkey, James Judge, Harry D. Chichester, and Ezra W. Clark, there are transmitted herewith the personal-history sheets of Mr. Lembkey and Mr. Judge. In the case of Mr. Chichester, the bureau's attention is invited to a request from this office dated April 21, 1909, for his personal-history sheet, which has not yet been received. In the case of Ezra W. Clark, the records of this office have been taken from the "statement of appointee or employee," which was made out while the position was under the Treasury Department. The information is not as complete as required for the personal-history sheet. It is requested that the bureau furnish a new personal-history sheet for Mr. Clark, and that the sheets forwarded herewith be returned to this office.

Respectfully,

GEO. W. LEADLEY,
Chief of Appointment Division.

The CHIEF CLERK, BUREAU OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 10, 1909.

CHIEF OF THE APPOINTMENT DIVISION,
Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Replying to your letter of July 8, returned herewith are the personal-history sheets of Messrs. Lembkey and Judge, fur-seal agents. The desired notations have been made therefrom. Mr. Chichester's personal-history sheet was forwarded to the department yesterday. In accordance with your request a blank has been sent to Mr. Ezra W. Clark with the desire that he fill it out and return without delay. Meanwhile it is requested that the bureau be furnished, if possible, with the date of Mr. Clark's appointment, his legal residence, and the place and date of his birth.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 12, 1909.

SIR: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 10th instant, returning the personal-history sheets of Messrs. Lembkey and Judge, seal agents.

It is noted that a blank has been sent to Mr. Clark with the request that he fill out the same and return it without delay. The only information the Department has as to the date of birth of Mr. Clark is the year, given as 1840, in his "Statement of appointee or employees," under the Treasury Department. The place of birth is given as Granville, Ohio, and the legal residence as Seattle, King County, Wash.

Respectfully,

ORMSBY MCHARG,
Acting Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 1, 1909.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to recommend that should an opportunity arise Mr. Ezra W. Clark, assistant agent at the Alaska seal fisheries, be transferred to some other responsible position outside of Alaska. Mr. Clark's services have been eminently satisfactory; he takes great interest in his work, and is thoroughly competent, but on account of his age it would seem proper that duty be given him in some place where the climate is less rigorous and the surroundings more suitable. It is probable that immediate action will not be practicable, as Mr. Clark has recently left for a year's tour of duty in Alaska, but it is hoped that the case will be borne in mind for the future.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 18, 1909.

CHIEF OF APPOINTMENT DIVISION,
Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Replying to an inquiry over the phone from your division, the personal-history sheet which was sent to Mr. Ezra W. Clark on July 10 to be filled out and returned has not yet been received. It is called to your attention that Mr. Clark is on the Pribilof Islands, in Bering Sea, and communication therewith is very irregular.

A letter has, however, been received from Mr. Clark, in reply to another from this office, stating that he was in the military service from April 14, 1861, until the close of the war; that he entered the Government civil service March 3, 1871, in the Treasury Department, and was promoted to Chief of the Revenue Marine in that Department, where he served until March 6, 1886, at which date he resigned.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR EFFICIENCY REPORT.

[Read the instructions on the reverse side of this form before attempting to fill it out.]

1. Bureau: (not in) Fisheries.
2. Where employed: Pribilof Islands.
3. Name: Walter I. Lembkey.
4. Where born: ———.
5. Age: ———.
6. Position: Agent at seal fisheries.
7. Compensation: $3,650 per annum.
8. When appointed (*a*): March 22, 1899.
9. How appointed (*b*): Prior to classification.
10. Appointed from: State, Pennsylvania; congressional district, sixth; county, Philadelphia.
11. Status under civil-service rules (*c*): Classified, competitive.
12. Is the employee an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? No.
13. Other Government service: Laborer, Treasury Department.
14. Duties (describe fully): Has general charge of all matters pertaining to the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska, including relations with lessees of the seal islands and the natives, guarding the seal herds, custody of buildings and Government property.
15. Efficiency: Quantity of work (*d*), 10/10; quality of work (*e*), excellent; interest manifested in work (*f*), excellent.
16. Is this employee fully earning the salary he is now receiving? Yes.
17. Remarks (*g*): ———.

GEO. M. BOWERS.

JULY 9, 1909.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR EFFICIENCY REPORT.

[Read the instructions on the reverse side of this form before attempting to fill it out.]

1. Bureau: (not in) Fisheries.
2. Where employed: Pribilof Islands.
3. Name: James Judge.
4. Where born: ———.
5. Age: ———.
6. Position: Assistant agent at seal fisheries.
7. Compensation: $2,920 per annum.
8. When appointed (*a*): October 31, 1898.
9. How appointed (*b*): Prior to classification.
10. Appointed from: State, Ohio; congressional district, twelfth; county, Franklin.
11. Status under civil-service rules (*c*): Classified, competitive.
12. Is the employee an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? No.
13. Other Government service: None.
14. Duties (describe fully): Under direction of the agent has charge of matters pertaining to the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska, including relations with lessees of the seal islands and the natives, guarding the seal herds, custody of buildings and Government property.
15. Efficiency: Quantity of work (*d*), 10/10; quality of work (*e*), excellent; interes manifested in work (*f*), excellent.
16. Is this employee fully earning the salary he is now receiving? Yes.
17. Remarks (*g*): ———.

GEO. M. BOWERS.

JULY 9, 1909.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR EFFICIENCY REPORT.

[Read the instructions on the reverse side of this form before attempting to fill it out.]

1. Bureau: Fisheries.
2. Where employed: Pribilof Islands.
3. Name: Ezra W. Clark.
4. Where born: ———.
5. Age: Sixty-nine.
6. Position: Assistant agent at seal fisheries.
7. Compensation: $2,190 per annum.

8. When appointed (*a*): May 10, 1898.
9. How appointed (*b*): Prior to classification.
10. Appointed from: State, Washington; congressional district, at large; county, King.
11. Status under civil-service rules (*c*): Classified.
12. Is the employee an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? Yes.
13. Other Government service: Treasury Department, May 3, 1871, to March 6, 1886.
14. Duties (describe fully): Under direction of the agent has charge of matters pertaining to the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska, including relations with lessees of the seal islands and the natives, guarding the seal herds, custody of buildings and Government property.
15. Efficiency: Quantity of work (*d*), 10/10; quality of work (*e*), excellent; interest manifested in work (*f*), excellent.
16. Is this employee fully earning the salary he is now receiving? Yes.
17. Remarks (*g*): On account of his age and the peculiar conditions obtaining on the seal islands, it is thought Mr. Clark should be transferred to some suitable position elsewhere than Alaska.

GEO. M. BOWERS.

JULY 9, 1909.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR EFFICIENCY REPORT.

[Read the instructions on the reverse side of this form before attempting to fill it out.]

1. Bureau: Seal fisheries.
2. Where employed: Pribilof Islands.
3. Name: Harry D. Chichester.
4. Where born: Port Lavaca, Tex.
5. Age: ———.
6. Position: Assistant agent at seal fisheries.
7. Compensation: $2,190 per annum.
8. When appointed (*a*): ———.
9. How appointed (*b*): Civil-service examination.
10. Appointed from: State, Texas; congressional district, fifteenth; county, Maverick.
11. Status under civil-service rules (*c*): Classified, competitive.
12. Is the employee an honorably discharged soldier or sailor? No.
13. Other Government service: Five or six months in 1892, temporary employment with fur-seal service.
14. Duties (describe fully): Under direction of the agent has charge of matters pertaining to the fur-seal fisheries of Alaska, including relations with lessees of the seal islands and the natives, guarding the seal herds, custody of buildings and Government property.
15. Efficiency: Quantity of work (*d*), 10/10; quality of work (*e*), excellent; interest manifested in work (*f*), excellent.
16. Is this employee fully earning the salary he is now receiving? Yes.
17. Remarks (*g*): ———.

GEO. M. BOWERS.

JULY 9, 1909.

1910.

Part I. Instructions to Agents and Agents' Reports.

January 13, 1910.

Memorandum.

The contract between the Government and the North American Commercial Co. for the taking of fur seals upon the islands of St. Paul and St. George in the Territory of Alaska will expire on the 1st of May, 1910.

The statute, section 1963, directs the Secretary at the expiration of this contract to "lease to proper and responsible parties for the best advantage of the United States, having due regard to the interests of the Government, the native inhabitants, their comfort, maintenance, and education; as well as to the interests of the parties heretofore engaged in trade and the protection of the fisheries, the right of taking fur seals on the islands herein named, and of sending vessels to the islands for the skins of such seals, for the term of 20 years."

In some respects the terms upon which such lease shall be made are set out in the statute. The money considerations to be paid will no doubt be affected by the changed condition of the fur-seal herds.

On St. George Island there are 87 natives. On St. Paul Island there are 193 natives. The total number of breeding seals on both islands, estimated 12 years ago to be 130,000, has, according to present estimates, been reduced to about 56,000. The total number of seals now is estimated to be about 134,000, as against 375,000 12 years ago.

Under these circumstances the advisory board of the fur-seal service recommends that the Government take over the immediate control of both islands, including the care of the natives and the administration of the seal industry.

As to the first recommendation it is probably safe to say that the care of the natives ought not to be let out by contract if such a conclusion can be avoided, but it must be admitted that numerically considered the natives represent a very inconsiderable factor.

With respect to the administration of the fur-seal interests a more difficult question is presented. The recommendation that the Government take immediate charge of these interests is not a new one. It has been urged repeatedly, but has always been objected to upon the ground that the Government should not engage in industrial pursuits, because of the possible effect of such a precedent upon governmental policy. The question now is whether changed conditions may modify this conclusion.

If pelagic sealing is not stopped, then the decision upon this question appears to be of little moment. In other words, the ultimate destruction of the seal herds is inevitable, and it becomes of comparatively little importance by what method the industry is brought to an inglorious conclusion.

If, however, pelagic sealing can be stopped, then the question is one of immediate importance. In that event we would have to deal not so much with an immediate industry, but would be concerned with a problem of ultimate conservation. The decision to stop pelagic sealing would seem to be consistent with the Government's control of the seal herds, and would no doubt be substantially fortified by such a course.

On the 26th of November, 1909, I addressed a letter to the Secretary of State, calling attention to the importance of this situation. There seems to be no doubt on the part of anyone that the continuance of the practice of pelagic sealing points to the early extermination of the herds, and we are squarely confronted with the question whether or not we will permit this practice to continue. The sealing fleets engaged in it are chiefly Japanese and Canadian, the former predominating, and enjoying the advantage of a 3-mile limit from the islands, while the Canadians are compelled to remain 60 miles out. It has seemed to me and I venture to suggest that the 60-mile rule which our Government enforces against England we ought to be in a position to enforce against every other country. If the grounds for it were valid against one nation, they ought to be equally valid against every other nation. Indeed, it looks almost like unfair discrimination to insist upon the position against some and to waive it as to others.

For whom these fleets really operate the department is not in a position to say. It is by no means clear, for illustration, that the Japanese Government is at all interested to extend its protection to these supposedly Japanese fleets. We are informed that the sealskins by whomsoever taken are generally sold in London, and that the skins taken by the fleets at sea bring about half the price of those that are properly taken on the islands.

In order that there may be no neglect of that which the law now directs, I propose to invite bids in due time. The privilege to reject all bids will make it possible to shape our course according to such new legislation or policy as may in the meantime be adopted with respect to the Government interests upon the islands.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 22, 1910.

The DIRECTOR OF THE CENSUS.

SIR: At the personal request of Mr. Joseph H. Romig, chief special agent of the Census Bureau for Alaska, I agreed some weeks ago to take the census of the Pribilof Islands, to be used in the compilation of the Thirteenth Census. As the result of my acquiescence, I received two days ago an appointment as a special agent of the census, "Alaska, No. 15," with compensation at the rate of $6 per diem while actually employed, and allowances for travel and subsistence.

The actual time necessary to perform this service probably will not exceed one week, and will in nowise conflict with my other

duties of agent in charge of the seal fisheries. Upon agreeing to do this work, I had no idea that I would receive extra compensation.

In view of the appointment, however, under the terms stated, I have the honor to request information whether the acceptance of salary and allowances for travel and subsistence as a census agent would in any way conflict with my regular appointment as agent for the seal fisheries, the salary of which is $3,650 per annum, or would come under the prohibitions in sections 1763 and 1765 of the Revised Statutes.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, February 3, 1910.

SIR: The department is in receipt of the bureau's letter of the 1st instant, inclosing communication from W. I. Lembkey, agent Alaskan seal fisheries, inquiring whether he should accept salary and allowance for travel and subsistence as a special agent to take the census of the Pribilof Islands.

In response, the department has to state that, apart from the legal aspect of the case, it is not believed that Mr. Lembkey should receive any additional compensation for his services, in view of the small amount of labor involved and the facility with which it can be completed without interfering with his employment under the Bureau of Fisheries.

The department is pleased to be able to avail itself of Mr. Lembkey's services, and in a separate communication of this date has ordered his detail for the work in question, effective upon a date to be fixed by you, assuming that the assignment is agreeable to the Commissioner of Fisheries.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

The DIRECTOR OF THE CENSUS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, February 3, 1910.

SIR: You are hereby detailed for temporary service under the Bureau of the Census for the purpose of taking the census of the Pribilof Islands, effective upon a date to be fixed by the Director of the Census.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Alaskan Seal Fisheries
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, February 8, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In accordance with Mr. Stevens's request of February 4, I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy each of the following letters:

H. H. Taylor, dated January 27, 1910;
C. H. Townsend, dated January 31, 1910; and
Alfred Fraser, dated January 28, 1910, to C. H. Townsend.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

[Confidential.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *January 27, 1910.*

Hon. GEO. M. BOWERS,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Answering yours of the 20th instant:

The Victoria Sealing Co. (Ltd.) is the main pelagic sealing concern belonging to the Canadians. It is a corporation which was formed about 1900 by combining most of the independent pelagic sealers hailing from Victoria, British Columbia. Some independent sealers have never entered the combination. Photographic copies of the annual statements of the Victoria Sealing Co. (Ltd.) covering the years 1901 to 1906, inclusive, are in possession of the Department of Commerce and Labor and also the Secretary of State. These statements purport to show certain facts regarding the capitalization of the company, etc., but contain no list of stockholders.

The skins obtained by the Victoria Sealing Co. (Ltd.) are shipped to C. M. Lampson & Co., London, and are openly classified and sold as the skins taken by such company.

One prominent merchant residing in San Francisco has always been credited with being a large stockholder of the Victoria Sealing Co. (Ltd.). He is an Englishman by birth and quite wealthy. I doubt if he has ever become an American citizen.

The pelagic sealing question is one that essentially involves numerous small details, and the use of only a smattering knowledge of the subject must place the United States at great disadvantage in any kind of negotiations. It was the lack of knowledge of details on the part of its representatives that caused the United States to be so badly worsted before the Paris tribunal; and there is every outward indication that two recent Secretaries of State entered into international negotiations with such scant understanding of the practical side of the question that the propositions presented lacked business sagacity, if nothing more. The United States has never taken into its confidence the people who could furnish the best information. In direct contrast with this, the British have consulted everyone available.

Without definite information as to what the United States is trying to accomplish, it would be useless to attempt to cover the

subject of pelagic sealing in a mere letter, because the scope is too broad. If the old company gets the new lease, it will join the Government in a most exhaustive investigation of the subject, if its cooperation be requested.

Respectfully, H. H. TAYLOR.

OFFICE OF ALFRED FRASER,
New York, January 28, 1910.

Dr. CHAS. H. TOWNSEND,
New York Aquarium, Battery Park.

DEAR SIR: Referring to our conversation of the 12th instant, and in reply to your inquiries, I beg to state that I deem it of the greatest imporatnce that the taking of fur-seal skins on the Pribilof Islands should not be discontinued, for unless a supply of skins from these and the Commander Islands can be kept up, I am of the opinion that the sale of sealskin garments will be greatly reduced or will cease. The number of skins taken off Cape Horn, the Cape of Good Hope, and Lobos Island has decreased very materially of late years. In the sales of December last no Lobos Island skins were offered, nor had any advice been received of last year's catch.

Within the last two years a considerable number of seal has been taken in the Southern Ocean, but it is fair to suppose that this supply will soon be exhausted. Should the supply of sealskins of fine quality, say, Alaskas, Copper Island, and South Sea, be exhausted or stopped temporarily, the workmen engaged in the unhairing, shaving, etc., of the skins, which require skilled labor, would be driven to take up other work and lost sight of, and in the event of a renewal of the supply it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find men capable of doing the necessary work on them, and the education of unskilled workmen would result in the spoiling of a great many skins.

Again, the cessation of the supply would cause seal to go out of fashion, and it might take many years to reintroduce them, and their value would be greatly reduced. I may add that for the last year or two a very large number of muskrat skins have been plucked and dyed in imitation of fur seal and although the garments made from these skins resemble seal when seen at a short distance, they can not be mistaken for seal on a close inspection. Such garments naturally are much less expensive than seal, and are not nearly so durable, but they may tend to reduce the consumption of fur-seal skins.

Allow me to call your attention to the fact that since the importation of pelagic sealskins was prohibited, practically all the Alaska skins and a large proportion of those taken on the Commander Islands have come to this country, and the duties paid on them have amounted to a very large sum. If you will refer to the new tariff bill you will find, under Schedule N, No. 439, "Furs dressed on the skin not advanced further than dyeing, but not repaired, 20 per centum ad valorem."

I understand, however, that the customhouse officials have decided that as the unhairing, or plucking, as it is called here, is a distinct operation, 35 per cent duty must be charged, as the skins could be both dressed and dyed without being unhaired. I do not deny that this could be done, but do not hesitate to say that skins dressed and

dyed without being unhaired could not be sold at a price equal to the duty; for ladies' use they would be useless, and I do not know any way in which they could be used.

At present prices, plus 8 per cent, which the appraisers a year or two ago decided must be added to the cost of dressed and dyed skins because the character of the skins had been changed, the duty on dressed and dyed Alaska fur-seal skins, including the additional 15 per cent, would amount to about 60 shillings per skin, say, $14.65, and the cost of the skins will be so extremely high that I very much doubt if they will find buyers; indeed, there is danger that a considerably increased cost of the raw skins, when combined with the expense already necessary to put the finished skins on the American market, would render the price to the consumer quite prohibitive and thus jeopardize the industry.

I do not deny that these skins could be dressed and dyed in this country, but inasmuch as during the past 10 years 175,261 Alaska fur-seal skins, dressed and dyed abroad, have been imported, against 845 skins in the raw state, it is evident that the work of dressing and dyeing can not be done in this country to the satisfaction of the trade and consumers.

As regards the unhairing, I may say that this is one of the early processes and skins can not be dyed until this operation has been performed—it is and always has been part of the dressing.

I would add that duty is paid on the actual cost of the skins, plus the dressing and dyeing charges, interest from date of payment to time of shipment, cases, and commission.

Yours, very truly, ALFRED FRASER.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM,
Battery Park, New York, January 31, 1910.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, United States Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: As a member of the fur-seal advisory board of your department and one always interested in matters pertaining to the fur-seal industry, I wish to call your attention to an important letter received from Mr. Alfred Fraser which is inclosed herewith.

I have known Mr. Fraser for many years and have every confidence in his knowledge of this subject as well as his entire sincerity. During the many years that the subject of the fur-seal fishery has been before our Government authorities he has supplied freely important statistics of the fur-seal trade. He has been the principal American buyer of sealskins in this country and has been in the business for a lifetime.

There can be no doubt that a reduction in the number of sealskins now coming from the Pribilofs would be most injurious to the sealskin trade.

It is to be hoped that the Pribilof Islands will be re-leased this year and that a small supply of skins will be kept available to the fur trade. The reasons for this are strongly set forth in Mr. Fraser's letter.

It is also important that the Treasury Department be requested to reconsider the matter of duty on sealskins.

The margin of profit left to the trade after the payment of duties on skins whose value is already enhanced by the Government tax on

the Pribilof catch makes them enormously expensive. In fact, their cost is almost prohibitive.

I feel that with fur-seal service transferred to your bureau and the presence in your office of a number of men well informed on this subject, you are in a position to make a good presentation of Mr. Fraser's letter to the proper authorities, and I earnestly hope that you will undertake to have this important matter properly presented.

I would suggest also that a copy of this letter be sent to Senator Dixon, who has introduced a resolution calling for a cessation of seal killing on the Pribilofs which would undoubtedly result in more harm than good at the present time.

Very respectfully, yours, C. H. TOWNSEND.

[Memorandum to the commissioner.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, February 24, 1910.

DESIRABILITY OF CONDUCTING EXPERIMENTS AT UNALASKA TO FEED STARVING FUR-SEAL PUPS.

The success of the recent attempt by Judson Thurber to feed fur-seal pups makes it desirable that further efforts in this direction be made under the auspices of this bureau.

To this end the following suggestions are made:

1. That the Treasury Department be requested to detail Judson Thurber for special duty under this bureau from June 1 until at least October 15.

2. That a special allotment of funds be made for the expense of subsistence of Thurber during this period; for the erection at Unalaska of a small inclosure to confine such pups as may be used for experimentation; for employment of such assistance as Thurber may require to obtain food for these animals, and such other expense as may arise in connection with the experiment.

3. It is believed, for the first summer's work, that at least 20 pups can be induced to feed and to live in captivity. These then can be transported on a revenue cutter to Seattle, where arrangements can be made for their distribution. These pups would have a considerable commercial value, and could easily be disposed of at a price sufficient to more than offset the cost of raising.

4. Having domesticated a number of these pups, it is suggested that overtures be made to the British Government with the object of furnishing the Canadian Government with enough pups to start a rookery of their own on the Atlantic coast; in consideration of which the adherence of Great Britain and Canada to a general game law covering the entire high seas will be solicited.

Should Canada succeed in establishing a seal rookery of her own, her interest in preserving fur seals on the high seas will be apparent.

BARTON W. EVERMANN.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 18, 1910.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the account of the North American Commercial Co. for fur-seal skins taken and shipped from the Pribilof Islands in August, 1909, is as follows:

Skins taken and shipped.

	St. Paul.	St. George.	Total.
Quota of 1908	32	4	36
Quota of 1909	11,022	3,310	14,332
	11,054	3,314	14,368
Skins to be shipped in 1910 to complete quota of 1909			668
Total			15,036

15,036 skins, at $7.62½ bonus	$114,649.50
15,036 skins, at $2 tax	30,072.00
15,036 skins, at $0.60 rental	9,021.60
Total	153,743.10

This amount, under the company's contract, is payable to the Treasurer of the United States on or before April 1, 1910.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

Question 1. What is the maximum number of male seals which can be killed annually, at the present size of the seal herd, without injury to its reproductive capacity and without interfering with an increase in its birth rate?

Answer. The annual quotas since 1904 have been 15,000.

The annual shipments of skins from the islands during this period were as follows: 1904, 13,128; 1905, 14,368; 1906, 14,476; 1907, 14,964; 1908, 14,996; 1909, 14,336.

In 1909 it was impossible to obtain the permitted quota of 15,000 because sufficient bachelors were not found to furnish it. It may be concluded from this that the herd will not hereafter furnish a quota of 15,000 bachelor skins. It is believed, however, that in 1910 12,000 bachelor skins could be obtained.

This number, of 12,000, can be furnished in addition to a reservation by the Government of 2,000 bachelors to form a breeding reserve, for the purpose of protecting the supply of male breeders. This reservation of 2,000 will be enough not only to preserve the breeding bulls at their present number but also to provide for their increase. The number of bulls with cows in the herd in 1909 on the two islands was 1,071. The average life of a breeding bull is 5 years. As a diminution of one-fifth annually would occur, it would be necessary, in order to preserve the breeding bulls from diminution, that at least one-fifth the number stated (1,071) should mature as breeders, or

214. To insure this annual increment of 214 new bulls the breeding reserve of 2,000 young males is provided annually, offering a wide margin of safety against all contingencies.

Question 1, therefore, may be answered by the statement that, with the herd at its present size, a maximum catch of 12,000 bachelors can be allowed without interfering in any way with an increase in the birth rate. This answer is predicated upon the hypothesis that pelagic sealing is to continue as hitherto.

Question 2. Will such maximum number increase in direct proportion to the size of the herd as it increases, and if not, what percentage of seals may be killed annually as the herd increases in numbers?

Answer. The size of the bachelor herd bears a direct relation to the number of breeding cows. Assuming that the sexes are produced in like numbers, the greater number of cows the greater number of male pups born, and conversely.

It may be stated, therefore, in answer, that the maximum number of bachelors to be killed will increase in direct ratio to the size of the herd of breeding cows as it increases.

The percentage which the maximum yield of bachelors bears to the whole herd has been stated variously at from 10 per cent to 20 per cent, depending upon the investigators' methods of enumeration of the whole herd. The proportion of killable bachelors to the whole herd may be assumed for purposes of a working basis as 1 to 15 (i. e., number killable : whole herd : : 1 : 15).

Question 3. Should all land killing of seals be discontinued if the herd decreases below its present size?

Answer. Decidedly no. With the maintenance on land of conditions for perpetually maintaining the species, such as the safeguarding of females and the annual segregation of young males for breeders in sufficient numbers, there is no reason for the abstention from killing at any time of such young males as are known to be unnecessary for breeding purposes and consequently superfluous.

The proper relation of breeding bulls to breeding cows approximately is 1 to 30. For purposes of perpetuating the species on land this ratio should be maintained whether the herd be large or small. With this relation maintained, however, the superfluous males should be killed without regard to the size of the herd.

The saving of superfluous males on land during the continuance of sea killing is doubly inadvisable, as not only is it useless, but provides an additional supply of seals from which the sea hunters may augment their catch. It is submitted that until this catch becomes unprofitable it will be difficult for this Government to obtain satisfactory terms in the settlement of the question.

For additional information upon this subject see page 43 of "Report on the Alaskan Fur-Seal Fisheries, 1906, by Edwin W. Sims."

Question 4. What is the net value of the average sealskin after taking and marketing, and, if such value varies from year to year, what would be a fair average price?

Answer. The gross average value of sealskins for 10 years past is about $33.70 per skin. The average cost to the lessee to market these skins, after deducting an annual Government bonus of $150,000, has been approximately about 50 per cent of the gross, representing

a net gain of $16.85 per skin. Should the Government market these skins, however, it is hardly possible that the same frugal methods of administration practiced by the lessee could be maintained.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 25, 1910.

Memorandum.

Answers by the Bureau of Fisheries to certain questions propounded by the Department of State concerning fur seals. The following answers are intended to supersede those to the same questions made several days ago, without knowledge that they were to be based upon the assumption that the pelagic sealing had ceased.

Question 1. What is the maximum number of male seals which can be killed annually, at the present size of the seal herd, without injury to its reproductive capacity, and without interfering with an increase in its birth rate?

Answer. Should pelagic sealing be continued it is advisable to kill on land every seal that may be killed under existing law. Should pelagic sealing cease, however, the herd of breeding cows will increase, and it would be necessary to provide bulls to serve this increased number of cows. With no pelagic sealing the maximum number that might be killed annually from 1910 to 1920 follows: 1910, 8,000; 1911, 8,000; 1912, 8,500; 1913, 9,500; 1914, 10,000; 1915, 10,500; 1916, 11,500; 1917, 11,500; 1918, 14,000; 1919, 15,000; 1920, 16,000.

This killing could be allowed while yet increasing the supply of adult bulls from 1,388 in 1909 to 8,973 in 1920, representing in the latter year an estimated ratio of cows to bulls of 1 to 14. The present ratio is about 1 to 35.

Question 2. Will such maximum number increase in direct proportion to the size of the herd as it increases; and, if not, what percentage of seals may be killed annually as the herd increases in numbers?

Answer. The maximum number of surplus (killable) bachelors will increase in direct proportion to the increase in the number of breeding cows. The number of breeding cows in 1909 was 45,765. In the years following it should be as follows: 1910, 50,338; 1911, 55,020; 1912, 58,786; 1913, 63,102; 1914, 67,934; 1915, 73,038; 1916, 78,514; 1917, 84,510; 1918, 90,850; 1919, 97,665; 1920, 105,013.

Question 3. Should all land killing of seals be discontinued if the herd decreases below its present size?

Answer. It should not, whether pelagic sealing cease or be continued. No matter how small the herd of cows, it always produces more males than are necessary for purposes of propagation. If pelagic killing continued, it is wise always to kill as many seals on land as may be without injuring the stock of males for future breeders. If it cease, the increase in cows may be provided amply with bulls, while, at the same time, allowing a yearly catch of bachelors for skins.

Question 4. What is the net value of the average sealskin after deducting the cost of taking and marketing; and if such value varies from year to year, what would be a fair average value?

Answer. The gross average value of sealskins for 10 years past is about $33.70 per skin. The average cost to the lessee to market these skins, after deducting an annual Government tax of $150,000, has been approximately 50 per cent of the gross, representing a net gain of about $16.85 per skin. Should the Government do its own marketing, this charge of $150,000 would not have to be paid, but on the other hand it would have to assume expenses of which it is now relieved that would approximate that amount. Furthermore, it is doubted whether the Government could conduct the sealing business with the same frugality as now exercised by the lessee. For this reason a profit of, say, $12 a skin to the Government, above all expenses, might be assumed.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 19, 1910.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS, SEAL ISLANDS, 1910.

Killing seals.—The question of the quota or number of seals to be killed for skins is to be considered first. Heretofore the killing has been done by a lessee of the sealing right, and the annual quota since 1904 has been 15,000. This number represented nearly the maximum yield of surplus bachelors afforded by the herd. The maximum yield in 1904 was slightly more, and that of 1909 slightly less, than 15,000.

No lessee is contemplated for 1910, and such killing as may be done will be conducted by the Government agents.

The number of skins to be taken should not be smaller than the normal yield of the herd. To restrict it to a lesser number would be to deliver killable seals to the pelagic hunters with which to augment their catches. What the normal yield of the herd will be in 1910 is impossible of ascertainment in advance.

For this reason it is suggested that no quota be fixed for 1910; that it be directed that various hauling grounds be driven regularly, but not too often, until July 31, and that such seals as may be found thereon having skins within the weights hereafter mentioned, and excepting those reserved as breeders, be killed. The present weights between which skins are considered eligible should be preserved, namely, 5 pounds to 8½ pounds. Four-year-old bachelors should not be killed.

Such skins as are secured by the methods outlined should be salted, bundled, and prepared for shipment at the usual time, namely, about August 15.

Marking of bachelors for breeders.—Since 1904, 2,000 bachelors annually have been reserved for breeders—1,000 each of 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds—by clipping the hair of their heads with sheep shears. The advisory board made no recommendation as regards 2-year-olds, but stated that not more than 95 per cent of the 3-year-olds be killed.

Presuming the number of 3-year-olds in existence to be 5,000 (which undoubtedly is far beyond the number) a reservation of 5 per cent would be only 250. A reservation of the usual number (1,000) would be 20 per cent.

It is believed that the reservation of 2,000 bachelors annually now is somewhat in excess of the necessities, as the herd has decreased almost 100,000 since this reservation first was made in 1904. Furthermore, a reserve of young bulls has been created from the savings of former years that will maintain the proper proportion between breeding seals for several years at least.

For 1910 it is recommended that 2-year-olds be not reserved by branding for the reason that it is believed the number of 2-year-olds with skins of 5 pounds or under will be sufficient to supply the necessary number of 3-year-olds for 1911, and all these will of course be reserved; and that 500 3-year-olds be so reserved, of which 100 be secured on St. George and 400 on St. Paul. This reservation of 500 will equal more than 10 per cent of the whole number of 3-year-olds in existence.

The recommendation that no 2-year-olds be reserved is predicated upon the assumption that killing will be under the entire supervision of the Government agents; that killing will not be close; that the supply of 3-year-olds for 1911 will be provided by the underweight 2-year-olds rejected at the killings.

Enumerations of seals.—The questions whether (a) seals shall be enumerated beyond the counting of harems, and (b) who shall do such counting, must be considered.

(a) Counting of harems can be done without disturbance of seals. Counting of pups, however, drives off all seals into water and increases by many times the chances of their capture by pelagic sealers 3 miles from shore. Normally 60 per cent of females are in the water on August 1. By driving all the females into the water on this date 40 per cent more females in a mass are driven toward the hunters. This practice can not be sanctioned except upon the ground of grave necessity. No grave necessity is known to be imminent in 1910, for which reason the least counting of pups necessary should be allowed, or all counts thereof should be discontinued.

Experiments in pup raising.—These experiments can not begin before August 1, as the rookeries can not be entered before that date. To obtain starving pups, the rookeries would have to be denuded of seals, as in pup counting. The least harm from driving off seals follows when such driving is done late in the season, as then the bulk of the pelagic fleet has departed. Also, unless a diet of milk exclusively is used upon pups secured early in the season their growth would be problematical, as solid food could not be assimilated until several months after birth. It is recommended that experiments be made with a considerable number of pups and that they be placed in charge of the naturalist.

Weighing of skins.—Every skin taken upon the islands since 1903 has been weighed in order to determine whether the lessee has complied with the regulations of the department. The practice should be continued in the future to the end that the records may show that only proper seals have been killed.

Compensation of natives.—The natives have been paid 75 cents for each skin taken and shipped from the islands. This has been used

as a fund, in connection with the appropriation, for the natives' subsistence. The elimination of the lessee will make it necessary to arrange for the compensation of the natives in some way by the Government.

In addition for sundry desultory labor for the lessee in connection with the upkeep of the stations, movement of supplies, etc., the natives have been paid 10 cents an hour in cash for unskilled and 15 cents for skilled labor. This cash wage, although small and irregular, has amounted to about $4,500 on St. Paul and $2,500 on St. George annually. It has been the greatest incentive to the natives to work during the winter. Some similar method should be devised to reward individual industry.

Articles necessary in the natives' domestic economy which will not be considered necessary by the accounting officers must be purchased. As an example, wedding rings are essential to the marriage ceremony of the Russian Church, and holy candles for religious functions—marriages, funerals, etc. These heretofore have been purchased with the cash earned by day labor.

It is recommended:

1. (a) That the amount earned from sealing, at the rate of $1 for each skin, and the amount earned from taking fox skins at $5 for each skin, be kept as a separate fund, to be credited to the community. (b) That from this fund such articles required by the natives, but not properly purchasable from the appropriation, be bought.

2. That the Government appropriation should augment this fund to an amount necessary to secure comfort of natives, say, to a point affording $100 per annum per capita after purchase of coal, fresh potatoes and onions, and required furniture for whole community.

3. (a) A certain amount of cash should be taken to the islands each year. (b) If necessary, an officer on each island should be bonded, the Government to pay the cost of bonding. (c) Pay for desultory day labor in cash, which natives may use to purchase unusual articles, or may purchase clothing and provisions if they so desire.

Disposition of natives' bank funds.—The lessee now holds on deposit funds of the natives aggregating several thousand dollars, on which it pays 4 per cent interest, the survival of a custom of the A. C. Co. to encourage thrift. This money, if the balances are small, should be paid by the N. A. C. Co. directly to the native owning the account; or if they be large, should be deposited in a savings institution in San Francisco with the natives' consent. This latter should be the method used in the case of minors having balances over a few dollars. If an adult native refuses to sanction a redeposit, the money should be paid to him in cash, but he should be strongly advised to conserve his resources.

Foxes.—The methods of feeding and trapping foxes now in vogue should be adhered to. The lessee has furnished annually 10 tons of salmon for fox food. This will now have to be supplied by the Government. It is believed that, if sufficient barrels are provided, enough seal meat can be obtained on St. Paul to furnish St. George with its required fox food and obviate the necessity of the purchase of salmon.

In trapping, a large proportion of each sex should be reserved and marked for breeders, to the end that the fox herd may be built up to an approximation of its maximum size.

Mess.—A mess should be provided for the employees of each island, with a cook and laundryman at each place. All employees should mess there. The employees also should be furnished free of cost with the paraphernalia, boots, etc., as they may need by reason of the special nature of their service. This practice now obtains with the other employees of the Bureau of Fisheries in the field.

Photographing rookeries.—The 1910 conditions of all the rookeries should be recorded by means of photography.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORANDUM.

In the event that an international agreement is reached under which all pelagic sealing will cease at once, the following modifications in the preceding memorandum are recommended:

1. The killing should be somewhat less close. In addition to reserving all underweight 2-year-olds, there should be reserved 500 from the killable class of 2-year-olds, 400 on St. Paul and 100 on St. George, these to be selected with reference to the special fitness as breeders. It is recommended that experiments in selective breeding be undertaken. The 500 reserved as above should be selected with this object in view.

2. A complete and thorough census should be taken of all the rookeries as a basis for comparison in the future.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, April 29, 1910.

SIR: I inclose for your information a copy of an act approved April 21, 1910, "To protect the seal fisheries of Alaska, and for other purposes," which becomes effective May 1, 1910.

The Bureau of Fisheries is hereby placed in charge of the administration of this act, under the general direction of the Secretary; and it is my desire that you at once take this matter under careful consideration and prepare comprehensive plans for carrying out the provisions of the law and for utilizing and conserving the fur-bearing animals hereby put under the control of the department.

Respectfully,

CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

[PUBLIC—No. 146.]

[S. 7242.]

An Act To protect the seal fisheries of Alaska, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall have power to authorize the killing of fur seals and the taking of sealskins on the Pribilof Islands, in Alaska, under regulations established by him prescribing the manner in which such killing shall be done and limiting the number of seals to be killed,

whenever he shall determine that such killing is necessary or desirable and not inconsistent with the preservation of the seal herd: *Provided, however*, That under such authority the right of killing fur seals and taking sealskins shall be exercised by officers, agents, or employees of the United States appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and by the natives of the Pribilof Islands under the direction and supervision of such officers, agents, or employees, and by no other person: *And provided further*, That male seals only shall be killed and that not more than ninety-five per centum of three-year-old male seals shall be killed in any one year.

SEC. 2. That any and all sealskins taken under the authority conferred by the preceding section shall be sold by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor in such market, at such times, and in such manner as he may deem most advantageous; and the proceeds of such sale or sales shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States: *Provided*, That the directions of this section, relating to the disposition of sealskins and the proceeds thereof, shall be subject to the provisions of any treaty hereafter made by the United States for the protection of seal life.

SEC. 3. That whenever seals are killed and sealskins taken on any of the Pribilof Islands the native inhabitants of said islands shall be employed in such killing and in curing the skins taken, and shall receive for their labor fair compensation, to be fixed from time to time by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, who shall have the authority to prescribe by regulation the manner in which such compensation shall be paid to the said natives or expended or otherwise used in their behalf and for their benefit.

SEC. 4. That section nineteen hundred and fifty-six of the Revised Statutes of the United States and section one hundred and seventy-three of the Act of March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, be amended to read as follows:

"No person shall kill any otter, mink, marten, sable, or fur seal, or other fur-bearing animal, within the limits of Alaska Territory or in the waters thereof; and every person guilty thereof shall, for each offense, be fined not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both; and all vessels, their tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo found engaged in violation of this section shall be forfeited; but the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall have power to authorize the killing of any such mink, marten, sable, fur seal, or other fur-bearing animal under such regulations as he may prescribe; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to prevent the killing of any fur seal except as authorized by law and to provide for the execution of the provisions of this section until it is otherwise provided by law."

SEC. 5. That section nineteen hundred and fifty-nine of the Revised Statutes of the United States and section one hundred and seventy-six of the Act of March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, be amended to read as follows:

"The Pribilof Islands, including the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, Walrus and Otter Islands, and Sea Lion Rock, in Alaska, are declared a special reservation for Government purposes; and until otherwise provided by law it shall be unlawful for any person to land or remain on any of those islands, except through stress of weather

or like unavoidable cause or by the authority of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor; and any person found on any of those islands contrary to the provisions hereof shall be summarily removed and shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both fine and imprisonment; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to carry this section into effect."

SEC. 6. That section nineteen hundred and sixty of the Revised Statutes of the United States and section one hundred and seventy-seven of the Act of March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, be amended to read as follows:

"It shall be unlawful to kill any fur seal upon the Pribilof Islands or in the waters adjacent thereto, except under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and it shall be unlawful to kill such seals by the use of firearms or by other means tending to drive the seals away from those islands; but the natives of the islands shall have the privilege of killing such young seals as may be necessary for their own food and clothing, and also such old seals as may be required for their own clothing and for the manufacture of boats for their own use; and the killing in such cases shall be limited and controlled by such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor."

SEC. 7. That section nineteen hundred and sixty-one of the Revised Statutes of the United States and section one hundred and seventy-eight of the Act of March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, be amended to read as follows:

"It shall be unlawful to kill any female seal or any seal less than one year old at any season of the year, except as above provided; and it shall also be unlawful to kill any seal in the waters adjacent to the Pribilof Islands, or on the beaches, cliffs, or rocks where they haul up from the sea to remain; and every person who violates the provisions of this or the preceding section shall be punished for each offense by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and all vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, whose crews are found engaged in the violation of either this or the preceding section shall be forfeited to the United States."

SEC. 8. That section one of the Act of December twenty-ninth, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, be amended to read as follows:

"No citizen of the United States, nor person owing duty of obedience to the laws or the treaties of the United States, nor any person belonging to or on board of a vessel of the United States, shall kill, capture, or hunt, at any time or in any manner whatever, any fur seal in the waters of the Pacific Ocean, including Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, whether in the territorial waters of the United States or in the open sea."

SEC. 9. That the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall have authority to appoint such additional officers, agents, and employees as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act and the laws of the United States relating to the seal fisheries of Alaska, to prescribe their duties and to fix their compensation; he shall likewise have authority to purchase from the present lessee of the right to

take seals on the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, at a fair valuation to be agreed upon, the warehouses, salt houses, boats, launches, lighters, horses, mules, wagons, and other property of the said lessee on the islands of Saint Paul and Saint George, including the dwellings of the natives of said islands; he shall likewise have authority to establish and maintain depots for provisions and supplies on the Pribilof Islands, and to provide for the transportation of such provisions and supplies from the mainland of the United States to the said islands by the charter of private vessels or by the use of public vessels of the United States which may be placed at his disposal by the President; and he shall likewise have authority to furnish food, shelter, fuel, clothing, and other necessaries of life to the native inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands and to provide for their comfort, maintenance, education, and protection.

SEC. 10. That sections nineteen hundred and sixty-two, nineteen hundred and sixty-three, nineteen hundred and sixty-four, nineteen hundred and sixty-five, nineteen hundred and sixty-six, nineteen hundred and sixty-seven, nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, nineteen hundred and sixty-nine, nineteen hundred and seventy, nineteen hundred and seventy-one, and nineteen hundred and seventy-two of the Revised Statutes of the United States, and all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed. The provisions of this Act shall take effect from and after the first day of May, nineteen hundred and ten; and there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

Approved, April 21, 1910.

MEMORANDUM IN REPLY TO ELLIOTT'S LETTER OF MAY 2, 1910.

The incident alluded to in the letter mentioned is as follows:

The senatorial subcommittee, of which Mr. Nelson was chairman, visited St. Paul Island on August 3, 1903, after the close of the sealing season, at a time when the bachelors' hauling grounds were full of female seals. As the committee expressed itself as anxious to see a seal killing, a few seals were driven up from the hauling grounds and a demonstration given of the methods used in taking seals. The body of seals driven up comprised probably 50 per cent of females.

The arrival of the cutter with the committee and party, numbering probably 25 strangers, and the fact that the killing was an exhibition, had the effect of embarrassing the native workmen. As a result, about the first thing the natives did was to club a cow by accident. Furthermore, they dragged it directly under the nose of Senator Nelson, who after discovering it caused considerable commotion by remarks indicating his belief that females were being killed as a regular practice. An explanation, outlining the excitement and embarrassment of the natives as the result of being surrounded by a noisy crowd of critical strangers, would avail nothing, neither would the reminder that this was not a regular killing but one held outside the usual season solely for the committee's benefit. Senator Nelson left

the islands firmly convinced that the lessee was killing cows contrary to law, and he has held that opinion ever since.

It may be stated that, in appearance, 2-year-old females and 2-year-old males are almost exactly similar and it requires an expert to distinguish between them. Even the adept native clubbers make a mistake now and then. With 10 years of experience, I myself can not by any means always determine the sex of these animals while they are alive.

The incident detailed above was reported by Senator Nelson, after his return from Alaska, to Mr. Elliott. The latter immediately reported it to Mr. F. H. Hitchcock, then chief clerk of the department. I myself reported it to Mr. Hitchcock, not knowing that previously he had learned of it from Mr. Elliott. At a conference between Mr. Hitchcock, Elliott, and myself in 1903, in discussing the incident, Elliott admitted that the mistake of killing a female at this time of year was an unavoidable one, and that it did not in any way reflect upon the management of the islands. The matter so far as the department was concerned was closed then.

As a matter of fact, a few females have been killed inadvertently each year since 1870. This is due to the intermixture of males and females on the hauling grounds after July 20, and the impossibility of distinguishing between the sexes in every instance. Last year four females were found among the seals killed and the fact reported to the department by Mr. Geo. Clark, whose attention was called to it by myself. If Elliott says he can avoid this occasional killing of a cow at the end of the season without absolutely stopping the killing after July 20, he tells a deliberate lie.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

[Cleveland (Ohio) Leader, May 2, 1910.]

SEALING MAY BE STOPPED—CONCESSION ON ALASKAN ISLANDS EXPIRES.

WASHINGTON, *May 1.*

Conservation of the Alaskan seal herds is a matter to which Secretary Nagel, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, is giving close attention. Congress has given the Secretary discretionary authority, and it will rest with him whether a certain number of the animals are to be slaughtered yearly or whether he will stop sealing altogether for a time. The lease of the North American Commercial Co. which, for 20 years, has enjoyed the exclusive privilege of taking the seals, expired yesterday.

MEMORANDUM FOR HON. CHARLES NAGEL, SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR, IN RE CONDUCT OF AFFAIRS ON THE SEAL ISLANDS OF ALASKA—THE DEADLY PARALLEL.

LAKEWOOD, OHIO, *May 2, 1910.*

United States Senator Nelson—March 17, 1910. In the Senate: Debate on Dixon seal bill.

"* * * Among other places we visited was the Pribilof Islands and while we were there we examined the seal herds, and we saw some of the killing, and before our eyes we saw seals killed contrary to the provisions of the lease. We became convinced of the fact that unless killing on those islands was absolutely suspended at once the herd would, in a very few years, be totally exterminated. * * *"

Congressman Sereno E. Payne—April 18, 1910. In the House: Debate on Dixon seal bill.

"* * * The seals taken by the Commercial Co. are all bull seals, 3 years of age. They are permitted to take 90 per cent of these seals from the islands. * * * But it is desirable that the same system of taking these seals should go on, because it is no detriment to the herds to take them. * * *"

Who is telling the truth? Senator Nelson is. Sereno Payne has been "stuffed" and does not know any better, perhaps; but Senator Nelson and his associates, Senators Dillingham, Burnham, and Patterson, caught the agents of the Government and the lessees, August 4, 1903, in the act of killing female fur seals. Not only did they catch those men on this ground itself, with the fresh-skinned carcasses, under their eyes, but they made those men admit this act of illegal killing. A full detailed account of this detection of that unlawful killing by those Senators, as above cited, is filed in the Department of State, by the order of John Hay, under date of January 21, 1904.

That record of the conduct of affairs on the seal islands of Alaska during the last 20 years should be audited now by new men competent to do so and who have had no association whatever with the lessees thereof past or present.

HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 6, 1910.

MEMORANDUM IN RE NECESSITY FOR AGENT CHICHESTER'S REMAINING ON THE COAST UNTIL SECOND TRIP OF STEAMER.

Only a portion of the supplies required for the islands can be purchased and taken up on the steamer's first trip. This results from the facts (*a*) that the ship will not carry all the required cargo on one trip and (*b*) that it is not possible to forecast all the supplies necessary to be purchased until the islands have been communicated with this spring.

The vegetables required for the islands (fruits, potatoes, etc.) can not be obtained on the market until too late for the first sailing.

Other numerous articles, found to be necessary after a winter's stay on the islands, must be ordered, purchased, and delivered between the arrival of the ship from her first trip and her second sailing. Heretofore this has occupied the time and attention exclusively of several employees of the lessee.

Furthermore, it probably will transpire that some of the prospective employees now on the islands will refuse to remain another winter, and it will be imperative that some one who understands the situation be present in San Francisco to arrange for the employment of other persons to fill the vacated places. To my mind, Mr. Chichester is the person best fitted for this work, and I recommend that it be assigned to him.

The only objection to this arrangement is the fact that if the rookeries are to be photographed this year Mr. Chichester's presence will be required on St. George from July 15 to August 1 on the work of making the photographs. While it would be desirable to have this photographing done, the fact remains that the work of reorganization of the island business undoubtedly will require the energies of all on the islands, especially when contemporaneous with taking sealskins. It would seem to me that this year the photographing of the islands is of minor consideration as contrasted with the more practical duties, and might be deferred for a year if impossible of accomplishment without conflict with the urgent work.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

Approved.
B. W. E.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 9, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: You are directed to proceed to San Francisco, Cal., and after performing such duties there and elsewhere on the Pacific coast as have been assigned to you in the detailed instructions furnished you under separate cover you will proceed thence to the Pribilof Islands.

Travel should be by the most direct routes. Your actual necessary expenses of travel and subsistence while engaged in this work will be refunded to you on presentation of proper vouchers. Hotel expenses should not exceed $5 per diem.

Respectfully,
GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Approved.
———— ————, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 9, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

1. *Order to proceed to islands.*—You are directed to leave Washington at a date to be determined hereafter and to proceed to the Pacific coast. There, after consultation with the North American Commer-

cial Co. with a view of ascertaining the quantity and quality of supplies required on the Pribilof Islands for the natives and others, you will purchase such merchandise at a reasonable price. You will also make the necessary arrangements for chartering a suitable vessel to transport such supplies to the islands, but before entering into any definite contract, wire the proposed terms to this office and await specific approval of the same. The time of sailing of this vessel and her general movements are left to your discretion, but it is believed that she can perform her work at the islands and return with the sealskins by September 1.

Assistant Agent Chichester will remain in the States until the second trip of the vessel to the islands in order that he may supervise the purchase of supplies that will be required to be transported on that trip, and also to attend to such other duties as may arise in connection with the island work, which at this date can not be foreseen.

2. *Assignment of agents.*—You will make such assignment of the assistant agents and other employees for the season's work as in your judgment seems best, notifying the department of your action hereunder.

At the close of the sealing season you will return to Washington and report for duty at the department. Agent Chichester will report for duty on the islands in the fall. Later instructions will be sent you regarding the other assistant agents.

3. *Change of laws relating to seal islands.*—You are informed that the act approved April 21, 1910, repeals that portion of the previous law which required the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to lease the right to kill seals on the islands. The act mentioned authorizes such killing to be done by agents, officers, and employees of the United States appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. Copies of said act are herewith transmitted and it will be your duty and that of the assistant agents and other officers and employees of the department to see that its provisions are strictly enforced.

5. *Agent in charge to have supervision.*—As agent in charge you will have general supervision over the killing of seals and foxes, the affairs of the natives, and all other interests of the Government on the islands. You should indicate to the assistant agents and others the nature of their duties and secure as far as possible good administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to the islands. Should a difference of opinion arise at any time between yourself and any of the assistant agents, employees, etc., in respect to a matter of administration on the islands, your decision must govern. If desired, however, you should request the agent or employee to state his views in writing upon the question under discussion, which you should submit to the department with a statement of your action and views thereon.

6. *Quota.*—No specified quota of male seals to be killed for their skins will be fixed. The number killed, however, should not be fewer than the normal yield of the herd after exempting from slaughter a safe margin to insure a supply of males for breeding purposes.

You are instructed, therefore, to cause the hauling grounds on both islands to be driven regularly, but not too often, until July 31, and to direct the killing of such male seals as may be found thereon having skins within the weights hereafter mentioned, excepting those reserved as breeders. Such skins as are secured by the methods

outlined should be salted, bundled, and prepared for shipment at the usual time, namely, about August 15. Care should be taken to exempt from slaughter all 4-year-old males and all females.

7. *Reservation of young males.*—To insure the escape from the killing fields of enough young male seals to supply the required number of breeding adults in future, you are instructed to release five hundred 3-year-old males in the proportion of 400 on St. Paul and 100 on St. George. The seals thus released are to be marked in such manner as will make them readily recognizable throughout the season, and under no circumstances are they to be killed.

The reservation of 2-year-olds for breeders is considered unnecessary for the reason that, with supervision of driving in the hands of Government representatives, the driving will not be too close and that consequently enough 2-year-olds will escape the drives altogether to provide a sufficient number of 3-year-olds the following year. These will be in addition to those 2-year-olds escaping from the killing fields and having skins weighing 5 pounds and under.

The seals reserved for marking are to be of the best examples in the herd. No seal patently undersize or having any deformity should be included in the number so reserved. Wherever possible experiments in selective breeding should be undertaken by reserving for breeders only those giving evidence of the highest physical attributes.

8. *Event of international agreement.*—The foregoing instructions respecting killing of seals and reservation of bachelors are predicated upon the assumption that no international agreement will be reached this summer putting a stop to pelagic sealing. In the event that such an arrangement should be reached before the end of the current season, doubtless you will receive additional instructions with a view of regulating the killing in accordance with any special arrangements made with foreign Governments interested.

9. *Sizes of killable seals.*—No seals shall be killed having skins weighing less than 5 pounds nor more than 8½ pounds. All skins taken should be weighed carefully and the weights, or a summary thereof, reported to the department. While it is understood that an occasional accident or error of judgment will result in the killing of a seal having a skin outside the weights mentioned, yet the greatest care should be exercised not to kill seals other than those specified as eligible.

10. *Killing season.*—The killing season should begin as soon as seals haul in numbers sufficient to justify driving, but should cease on July 31 because of the approach of the "stagey" season and of the presence of adult and yearling seals in the drives. You should use your judgment as to whether drives be made less frequently at the close of the season to obviate the possibility of young females being killed by accident due to the difficulty in distinguishing them from bachelors. The killing of pups for food for the natives, or for any other purpose, is not to be permitted.

11. *Seals for food.*—Driving for natives' food should not begin before October 20, and care should he exercised at that date that the skins of seals killed be not "stagey" to a degree that would impair the commercial value of the skin. Drives for food should be made not oftener than the needs of the natives in that respect require. Drives for food on rookeries remote from the villages should not be made

unless the carcasses actually are necessary for natives' food or for food for foxes, or for some other sound reason, and in any event care should be taken to preserve for future use the carcasses of such seals as are not immediately disposed of. The number of seals to be killed for natives' food for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1910, should not exceed 1,700 on St. Paul and 500 on St. George. No female seal, or seal having a skin weighing under 5 pounds or more than 7 pounds, shall be killed during the so-called "food-killing season." Care shall be taken that no reserved or marked bachelors be killed in the drives for food or at any other time.

12. *Driving.*—The methods of conducting drives for skins heretofore practiced should be followed. The time, place, and manner of conducting drives should be fixed by you or by an assistant agent assigned by you to that duty. A representative of the Government should be present on the killing ground in each instance to superintend the killing.

13. *Killing grounds.*—As heretofore, you should establish on each of the islands killing grounds that can be reached by the shortest possible drive; provided, however, that such killing grounds must be at places sufficiently distant from the rookeries to prevent annoyance from the decaying carcasses.

14. *Counting skins.*—All the sealskins should be carefully counted into the salt houses in the presence of representatives of the department and of the native community, and a receipt in duplicate in the following form should be prepared and signed by each of said representatives:

ST. ——— ISLAND,
———, *191* .

We certify that there have been placed in salt in the salt house in our presence ——— sealskins.

———— ————,
For Department of Commerce and Labor.
———— ————,
For Native Community.

15. *Receipts for sealskins salted.*—The originals of the receipts prepared in accordance with the preceding paragraph should be retained by the representative of the department for the files of the island, while the duplicates should be transmitted by you to the department. At the close of the season when the sealskins are counted again and shipped on board the steamer, the usual annual receipts should be signed by the captain of the steamer and the representative of the department.

16. *Trading in skins.*—Attention is called to the fact that section 2 of the act approved April 21, 1910, entitled "An act to protect the seal fisheries of Alaska and for other purposes," provides that "any and all sealskins taken under the authority conferred by the preceding section shall be sold by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor in such market, at such times and in such manner as he may deem most advantageous." Care should be taken to prevent the disposal of skins of seals or of foxes by the natives or others to any person or persons except in the manner prescribed by these or other regulations. All trading in sealskins by the natives is to be strictly prohibited, nor shall the natives be permitted to do any trading in fox skins.

17. *Measures to prevent shipment of skins by natives.*—To avoid the possibility of seal or fox skins being surreptitiously shipped from the islands, you are directed to continue the practice of examining all goods to be shipped by the natives, including baggage and personal effects, and where barrels, casks, boxes, or other receptacles are used, they should be closed under your supervision, after an examination of the contents, before being placed in the warehouse. Any skins found concealed in packages to be shipped by the natives should be seized and held, subject to instructions from the department.

18. *Census of seal herd.*—Because of the great activity of the pelagic sealers about the islands, it is believed unwise to disturb unnecessarily the breeding seals, thereby driving them into the water. For this reason counting of the rookeries should be discontinued except that necessary to make the annual enumeration of harems and breeding bulls about July 15. If you deem it advisable, the pups on Kitovi rookery on St. Paul, and North rookery on St. George, may be counted on or about July 31, to determine the size of the average harem thereon. At the close of the season and after the departure of the pelagic sealing fleets, an enumeration of dead pups should be made and such information reported regarding the cause of death as can be obtained.

Should pelagic sealing be abolished by international agreement it is desirable to have made a thorough and exact census of all the seals of whatever class on each island, and definite directions to that end will be prepared in due time.

19. *Care of the natives.*—The care and welfare of the natives should receive your close attention and, in fact, that of all the Government agents and employees on the islands. It shall be your duty to see that the natives are supplied, so far as funds will permit, with the necessaries of life to an amount sufficient to maintain them in comfort, due regard being paid to economy and thrift.

20. *Compensation to natives.*—The compensation to be paid to the natives for killing, salting, curing, bundling, and loading the sealskins on board the steamer at the close of the season will be $1 for each skin taken and shipped. The money thus earned is to constitute a community fund for distribution among the natives according to their respective classes. At the close of the sealing season, after a conference with native chiefs, you will make such division of the fund among the natives, according to their classification, as is deemed fair and just, and submit a report of such division, showing the amount apportioned to each native participating in the fund.

21. *Payment of natives' earnings.*—It is the purpose of the department to arrange for the payment in cash of such sums as the natives may earn from time to time in miscellaneous labor which may not properly be classed as community work. The funds earned from taking seal and fox skins are to be disbursed on orders as heretofore. The payment to the natives of money from the appropriation which Congress has made for their maintenance is forbidden. The labor for which they will be compensated hereunder should be such only as they may not properly be requested to perform as a community in return for the appropriation made for their support.

22. *Support of natives.*—It is expected that Congress will appropriate the sum of $19,500 "to enable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to furnish food, fuel, and clothing, and other necessaries of life to the native inhabitants on the islands of St. Paul and St. George,

Alaska," during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, and the same care and economy should be exercised in the expenditure of this appropriation as heretofore. Articles of necessity only should be issued. No expensive dress goods, boots, or other similar articles of luxury are to be provided.

Each of the natives should be restricted to one pair of dress shoes each year. Ginghams, calicoes, muslins, and other similar inexpensive materials for wearing apparel may be issued in reasonable quantities.

The supply of fuel for the use of the natives is paid for from this appropriation and the cost of such fuel should not be overlooked in determining how much of the appropriation is to be available for other purposes. In the distribution of supplies no distinction is to be made between persons without means and those having small savings from previous years. Widows and orphans should be supported from the appropriation provided by Congress.

You will continue the plan already adopted of issuing orders for such supplies as are required by the native inhabitants. At the end of the season, as heretofore, you will submit to the department the originals or copies of the orders issued.

In issues of supplies to the natives payable from their sealing and foxing divisions an advance over wholesale cost price of 33⅓ per cent should be charged. After the natives' earnings have been expended for supplies, such further articles as are necessary for their support should be charged against the merchandise account at the same price. Vouchers should be taken in every instance wherever goods are issued or cash paid for labor, and these vouchers should be transmitted to the department at the close of the fiscal year with an account showing fully the transactions involved. Payments of cash for miscellaneous labor should be on periodical pay rolls, which should be preserved as vouchers. A double-entry system of bookkeeping with the necessary auxiliary records, such as cashbooks, etc., should be kept. A monthly trial balance should be taken and a duplicate made for transmission to the department.

23. *Coal supply.*—The amount of coal which will be required on the islands during the coming year will be as follows:

	Tons.
St. Paul:	
Government house	15
Natives' use	250
Other buildings	50
St. George:	
Government house	15
Natives' use	115
Other buildings	45
Total	490

Of this amount the North American Commercial Co. has probably 80 tons on hand on St. Paul and 25 tons on St. George. You should therefore arrange for the purchase on the coast of the following amounts of coal:

	Tons.
St. Paul	235
St. George	150
Total	385

This coal should be of good quality and sacked. You should make inquiries of the various dealers and purchase the coal at the lowest price for the quality desired.

24. *Dwellings of the natives.*—It is the purpose of the department to acquire title to the native dwellings on the islands. In this event it shall be your duty to see that the natives keep them in proper repair so far as they can with the means at their disposal. Efforts should be made to obtain better sanitary conditions in these dwellings, and where more people are domiciled in one house than are considered a proper number, you should report that fact, and a plan designed to alleviate the condition.

25. *Schools for the natives.*—As heretofore, the schools shall be maintained from September 1 to May 1, and to be open five days in each week, the school hours to be from 9 o'clock a. m. to 3 o'clock p. m., with an hour recess at noon and 15 minutes recess in the forenoon. None but the English language shall be taught in the schools. The question of holidays will be left to your discretion.

26. *Widows, orphans, aged and infirm.*—The widows, orphans, aged and infirm inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands hereafter will be supported by the Government instead of by the lessee as heretofore, and they should be furnished with the necessaries of life in the same proportions as the others. As these widows and orphans do not participate in the division of natives' earnings, orders for their support should be drawn upon the Government appropriation. In issuing supplies no distinction should be made between those who are penniless and those having small sums saved from previous years.

27. *Bank accounts of natives.*—The North American Commercial Co., the former lessee of the sealing rights, now holds on deposit certain funds belonging to individual natives, upon which it has paid interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum. The balance on these accounts, if they are small, should be paid by the company directly to the natives; if, however, the native desires, they should be held by the company and deposited in a safe financial institution in San Francisco by yourself as attorney in fact for the benefit of the natives owning the accounts, the interest on which to be collected annually by you and paid directly to the respective natives. The latter should be the method used in the case of minors having balances over a few dollars, provided, of course, the consent of their guardian or next of kin can be obtained. If an adult native refuse to sanction a redeposit of his own funds, the money should be paid to him in cash, but he should be advised strongly to agree to this arrangement.

28. *Natives to render service.*—In consideration of the support gratuitously afforded the natives by the Government, you are directed to utilize their services in repairing roads, guarding rookeries, moving of supplies, and performing such other duties as may seem desirable. Work on Government property, not to be classed as community work, should be paid for in cash at rates similar to those paid by the late lessee for the same purpose. It is intended by the department to have cash taken to the islands for this purpose.

29. *Election of native chiefs.*—The natives should be allowed to select their own chiefs without interference, unless persons are chosen for those positions who are manifestly unfit. In the latter case, it will be your duty to interpose in the interest of good government and

require the selection of proper persons, but such action should be taken only in extreme cases.

30. *Sale of intoxicants prohibited.*—The law prohibits the sale of liquor to the native inhabitants of Alaska. It will be your duty to see that liquor is not sold to the natives of the Pribilof Islands from vessels touching there, or by anyone, and in case liquors are so sold, you should use every effort to have the person selling such liquor apprehended and punished. Liquors should not be furnished on the islands to the natives except for medicinal purposes.

31. *Manufacture of intoxicants.*—The brewing or distilling on the islands of intoxicating beverages is prohibited. In the enforcement of this provision you are authorized to discontinue the issue of sugar or other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants to any person who violates this order or who is found to be intoxicated. Should intoxication become so general among the people as to interfere with good government and jeopardize the peace, you are authorized to discontinue altogether the issue of sugar and other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants, for such length of time as may appear wise.

32. *Removal for cause.*—Should natives or other persons become so unruly or immoral in conduct as to endanger the peace and good government of the people, they should be removed from the islands, and the Revenue-Cutter Service will be instructed to render such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose.

33. *Landing on the islands restricted.*—No persons other than Government officers, such representatives and employees of the North American Commercial Co. as are necessary to close that company's business, and accredited representatives of the Russian Church shall be allowed to land on the islands except by written authority from the department. The permission granted representatives of the Russian Church to visit the islands may be suspended, however, when its exercise is attempted by an improper person. Visitors to the islands should not be permitted to inspect the rookeries, except under your supervision.

34. *Killing of sea lions to be limited.*—The preservation of the sea-lion rookeries on the islands is highly important. The killing of these animals should be limited to such numbers as are absolutely necessary in providing for the construction of bidarras or skin boats. Sea-lion pups should not be killed for any purpose.

35. *Information regarding affairs of islands.*—Information regarding the seals, or any other matter pertaining to the seal islands, is not to be given out by you or by any other person or persons on the islands. All applications for such information should be referred to the department.

36. *Guarding the rookeries.*—Arms and ammunition have been placed upon the islands by the Government for the purpose of protecting the seals, and especially the breeding rookeries, from marauders who may seek to land upon the islands and kill the seals. It will be the duty of yourself and the assistant agents to enforce as far as practicable the laws for the protection of the rookeries and the prohibition against unauthorized persons landing upon the islands. To this end native guards should be maintained upon such isolated rookeries as are in danger of raids, and the native men should be drilled and other-

wise instructed in the use of rifles furnished for the protection of Government property.

37. *Mess.*—It is the purpose of the department to provide a mess on the islands at which all of the nonstatutory Government employees of the islands should be furnished meals free of charge. A cook on each island should be provided for this purpose and enough supplies furnished to enable this mess to be maintained. You should give such instructions and make such arrangements as are necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this paragraph, bearing in mind that the strictest economy and care should be exercised in maintaining this mess.

38. *Foxes.*—The trapping of foxes on St. George Island should be continued. The methods heretofore used should be employed. Seal meat should be preserved for fox food as hitherto. It is believed that if a sufficient number of barrels are furnished, seal meat from St. Paul can be packed therein and transported to St. George in sufficient quantity to provide food for the foxes during the winter. If not, you will make arrangements, if possible, for the provision of other suitable fox food.

On St. Paul the trapping of foxes will be left to your discretion.

39. *Conclusion.*—Should questions arise involving matters not covered by these instructions, it will be your duty to report the facts to the department and to await instructions, except in cases requiring immediate decision, when you will take such action as sound judgment dictates.

The instructions embodied in this letter are to remain in force until they are superseded by later ones; and in the event of your failure to receive revised instructions for a subsequent season the directions herein given are to be followed for such season so far as they are applicable.

Three additional copies of this letter are inclosed herewith, and you are directed to furnish one of these copies to each of the assistant agents for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

Approved.

———— ————, *Secretary.*

MAY 19, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: There is inclosed herewith a letter from Mr. Ravenel, administrative assistant, United States National Museum, which explains itself. I inclose also a Government bill of lading for your use in shipping the skeleton of the killer whale from San Francisco to the National Museum.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 26, 1910.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have reached an agreement with the agents of the steamer *Homer,* in accordance with the terms detailed in my recent telegrams, and will mail the charter to-morrow to you for approval at the department.

The vessel is now on dry dock and will be delivered for use under the charter June 1. After coaling her bunkers, she will proceed to the dock selected for her and loading will begin. It is not probable that she will sail for the Pribilof Islands much before June 11, although the work of dispatching her will proceed with all due haste.

In regard to the purchase of supplies, I realized at once upon arrival that the best prices on goods required could not be obtained without competitive bids. I therefore, with the assistance of the North American Commercial Co., from whom I obtained lists of the articles required, drew up schedules of the principal merchandise and submitted each list to three of the largest mercantile firms in the several lines of business, asking each to submit bids in writing. This has occupied my time until this evening, as the result of which I will be able to save about $300 on groceries, $150 on coal, about $5 on each barrel of salt beef, with the remaining bids not yet in. Small articles of miscellaneous classification I shall be obliged to purchase in the open market, but the amount of the latter will be small. In addition, I inspected the quality of goods bid on, and rejected some bids in cases where the price was low but the quality unsatisfactory.

To solicit these bids it was necessary that I should visit each firm in person to make the necessary explanations regarding my status, nature of articles required, terms of payment, etc. To do this, it was necessary to cover the entire city from North Beach to Alameda. After one day's attempt to use the ordinary means of conveyance in addition to walking, I found that I could not do the work necessary in a month because of the time wasted in reaching the business houses. Accordingly, I hired this morning a horse and buggy, with which I have been able to do four times the work and to finish the day without being completely worn out. I shall be obliged to use this conveyance in purchasing supplies, which requires my visiting each business house and inspecting the goods bought. I have hired this team on my own responsibility, as the necessity is imperative, but respectfully request that I be given authority for the hiring of such conveyance when necessary at a price not to exceed $2.50 per diem.

Being unacquainted with the location of the business houses in this city, I have been accompanied by Mr. James McMullin, of the North American Commercial Co., who not only has shown me how to get about the city, but has given me the benefit of his experience of 20 years as a purchasing agent. The department is greatly indebted to him for his disinterested and kindly assistance. The clerical work involved in getting the ship off will be heavy, but I believe that I will be able to do it nights.

I have already had a conference with the company in regard to the transfer to the Government of its property on the islands. No provisional agreement yet has been reached. On their buildings I

offered 50 per cent of their inventory value on their buildings, tools, household furniture, drugs, 25 per cent on their telephone and library, about 66 per cent on boats, and reductions on other articles. I offered to take their remaining merchandise at wholesale San Francisco price, and to take their coal at what it would cost us to lay it down on the islands. Should an understanding be reached, I will submit lists at once.

Redpath will go with me to the islands. I have offered to haul the company's skins and any merchandise it desires to bring away from the islands at prevailing shipping rates. I have had an application from the Alaska Commercial Co. to take six or eight head of beef cattle to their station at Unalaska, but have held the matter in abeyance until I can discover the value of such transportation and whether it would in any way effect delay in the movement of the ship. I am not certain whether I have authority to haul miscellaneous cargo for outside shippers.

In general, matters have progressed satisfactorily, and I hope to have the ship off without delay or complication. With a little assistance I hope to be able to secure a satisfactory berth at a dock requiring only a short haul on merchandise.

I shall communicate in writing at every opportunity.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries, Room 218, Mills Building.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 26, 1910.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES, *Washington, D. C.*

SIR: Regarding the purchase of supplies, the appropriation of $19,500 for natives' support, 1911, will not be available until July 1, proximo. Until then, the appropriation of $150,000 will have to be used for the purchase of natives' supplies, to be reimbursed by transfer warrant from the natives' appropriation, after the latter becomes of use on July 1.

Prices obtained from merchants are predicated on 20 days' payment, approximately. Payment can not be delayed until July 1, or after, without receding from promises made to them, based on the statement of Mr. Soleau that checks can be returned in 20 days after mailing of accounts here.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent Seal Fisheries.*

[Copy of telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 27, 1910.*

BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:*

Customs authorities here require full manifest *Homer*, also permit to ship liquors, arms, ammunition in addition. Delay requirement necessitates services customs broker, fee $25. Please have Treasury instruct collector customs treat *Homer* as Government vessel, waiving usual formalities required merchant shipping. Charter mailed to-morrow approval. Probably sail June 11.

LEMBKEY.

JUNE 2, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

May 27 Acting Secretary Cable telegraphed collector customs San Francisco to waive requirements of manifest. Treat *Homer* as Government vessel. Permit liquor, arms, and ammunition. This telegram confirmed by letter May 28.

BOWERS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 1, 1910.

Mr. WALTER R. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Referring to your telegram of May 28, inclosed herewith are a copy of a telegram and letter addressed to the collector of customs, San Francisco, Cal.

Respectfully, GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 29, 1910.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a schedule of the movements of the steamer *Homer* in her two trips to the Pribilof Islands during the ensuing summer. This schedule is made on the assumption that the vessel will not be delayed because of stress of weather, so that should she be later in returning than the dates specified in the inclosed list no anxiety need be felt.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent Seal Fisheries.*

SCHEDULE STEAMER "HOMER."—*Season 1910.*

FIRST VOYAGE.

Leave San Francisco	June 11	Leave Dutch Harbor (coal)	July 8
Arrive Dutch Harbor	Jun 23	Arrive St. George (coal)	July 9
Leave Dutch Harbor	June 25	Leave St. George (coal)	July 12
Arrive St. George	June 26	Arrive St. Paul (coal)	July 13
Leave St. George	June 27	Leave St. Paul (coal)	July 14
Arrive St. Paul	June 28	Arrive Dutch Harbor (coal)	July 15
Leave St. Paul	July 1	Leave Dutch Harbor	July 17
Arrive Dutch Harbor	July 3	Arrive San Francisco	July 28

SECOND VOYAGE.

Leave San Francisco	Aug. 6	Arrive St. Paul	Aug. 22
Arrive Dutch Harbor	Aug. 18	Leave St. Paul	Aug. 25
Leave Dutch Harbor	Aug. 19	Arrive Dutch Harbor	Aug. 27
Arrive St. George	Aug. 20	Leave Dutch Harbor	Aug. 29
Leave St. George	Aug. 22	Arrive San Francisco	Sept. 9

No allowance is made in the above schedule for bad weather or other causes of delay.

[Personal--Confidential.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 29, 1910.*

MY DEAR Mr. BOWERS: I have had a busy week. As you know, the steamer has been chartered provisionally, and the charter is on its way to you for approval. The ship will be delivered to me on June 1, and will then go to the bunkers to receive her coal, and then to the dock to take on the merchandise. I was not successful in getting the dock I wanted in the center of the shipping district, but it was only because the dock desired had been promised far in advance, and considerable influence is brought to bear in such matters. I will get another good one, but somewhat farther up. The Republican State chairman and a prominent local politician were among the lowest bidders on my list, and their good offices were available in the matter of the dock.

I am glad I was able to secure competitive bids on nearly all the merchandise, as not only did it give the department the benefit of the best prices and the best goods, but it disarmed any criticism as to the management of the question of purchasing. On some articles I got a much better price than the company did last year, and in all things I got as good as they got or could get. These prices will hold in respect to the purchase of goods for the second trip of the steamer, unless the market takes a bad turn.

I feel very grateful to the company for their advice and actual assistance in the matter of the merchandise. I would not have been able to get about to visit the various business houses, as I am unacquainted as yet with the city streets, which are not marked, but I was given the assistance of Mr. McMullin, of the company, who went at it just as if he were working for Taylor. With Redpath to advise me about the ship, and McMullin to get me about the city, I will make a go of it in a manner that will be creditable to the bureau and to the department. When I get to the islands I will be at home and can shift for myself.

I can make no return personally for the courtesies offered by the company, and of course they expect none. But I would like to haul any merchandise they may wish to take to or bring from the islands free of cost, and to give transportation to their employees returning to or coming from the islands, upon payment by the company of only the actual cost to the Government, namely, for their meals on the steamer.

I mentioned the fact that I had a conference with the company regarding the transfer of their property on the islands. Since then, Mr. Taylor has agreed to the terms suggested by me and the matter will go to the department substantially in the manner already outlined. The merchandise and movable property on the islands can be taken over only on appraisement and inventory, so that the question can not be closed up until the fall, when I shall have reported the amount of goods on the islands. I consider the offer I made fair to both sides, although it is only provisional and subject to final revision by the department.

The steamer will get away from here about June 11, and will arrive back on her first trip about July 28. On her second voyage she will leave Frisco about August 6, and arrive back at San Francisco about September 9, with the skins. Unless arrangements are

made beforehand for the receipt and disposal of the skins, I will place them at once in cold storage here awaiting instructions.

I have purchased some goods, but will be busy during the entire coming week at that task. Afterwards, I will have to visit each firm to deliver to them the vouchers for the goods, which I will make out in order that they will be in proper form. I trust that these accounts will be expedited upon their receipt at the department, as the merchants have figured close on the goods and will want their money.

I have had application from three natives of Unalaska and vicinity who are here without funds, one of whom is Miss Wagner, whom you may remember. She will be accompanied by a chaperone named Mrs. "Morjovi" Brown. I told them they might go provided they pay the ship for their meals. I do not believe the department wishes to charge these natives for their transportation, and it would be almost cruelty to deny them passage when the ship can haul 50 passengers.

When Chichester comes here in the summer, it will be well to explain to him that it will next to impossible for him to go about and purchase supplies without the aid of the company, and that he should take advantage of their advice in such matters. Next year this purchasing will have to be begun two months before the sailing of the steamer, so that proper time may be given for attention to all details without this deadly haste.

In all matters I am acting, as I believe, for the best interests of the department and am sparing neither thought nor effort to get the best results. I feel that I have your confidence and support, and furthermore, I am doing the best I can for the Secretary who stands up for his men. I have had but one bribe offered to me, and in that case a reputable merchant, who bid on certain goods and who has been doing considerable business with the Government, offered me a 15 per cent discount on the goods, 10 per cent to show on the invoice and the remaining 5 per cent subject to my order. As his bid was considerably the lowest, I did not feel that I should refuse it, but I informed him very plainly that all discounts must appear on the invoice in red ink and that I was not looking for any "hand-out." While I am not more than ordinarily honest they will have to bid higher than that to buy me. I shall never give the man a chance to bid on any further goods I may be instrumental in buying.

I shall report officially my progress whenever I have an opportunity.

Very truly, yours, W. I. LEMBKEY.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries.

[Copy.]

JUNE 6, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Letters May 29 received and satisfactory. Transport natives and company merchandise and employees on terms mentioned in your letter.

BOWERS.

[Night message.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 1, 1910.*

To BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Homer coaling dock to-morrow; complete purchase merchandise Saturday; advise whether customs authorities require manifest and other useless formalities.

LEMBKEY.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

JUNE 2, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent, Bureau of Fisheries,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco:

Supplies for native inhabitants are to be paid for from appropriation for that purpose, which is not available until July. Appropriations can not be transferred. Accompany vouchers with the statement supplies are for fiscal year 1911. Wait for letter.

BOWERS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 2, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent, Bureau of Fisheries,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: In explanation of the confirmation of telegram inclosed herewith you are informed that the suggestion made by you can not be complied with, as the appropriations can not be transferred; nor is it desired to infringe in any way upon the $150,000. Each voucher should be accompanied with a statement that the supplies are for use during the fiscal year 1911. A memorandum, such as the one inclosed, will be sufficient.

Respectfully, H. M. SMITH, *Acting Commissioner.*

[Night message.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 3, 1910.*

To BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Your telegram 2d. Can I promise merchants checks, for vouchers will be forwarded from Washington about July 1? Appropriation natives' support not yet made. Larger appropriation available for natives' support under warding act. Will await letter.

LEM C KEY.

JUNE 3, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Supplies for native inhabitants to be paid for from the nineteen thousand five hundred appropriation. Vouchers to be accompanied by statement referred to. Checks will be mailed promptly after July 1.

BOWERS.

SAN FRANCISCO, *June 6, 1910.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Acknowledging the receipt of your letter and telegram of June 2, and confirming my telegram of this date, I have the honor to report that, previous to the receipt of your letter, after the bills for supplies purchased had been received and computed, I found that the aggregate cost of such goods for the first trip of the steamer, including coal purchased for the ship itself, was over $23,000. This, of course, did not include the goods to be purchased for the second trip of the steamer.

Upon ascertaining the approximate total of the expenditures I at once made inquiries of the company to arrive at the actual cost of the supplies for the islands in years past. Mr. Davis, the company's secretary, immediately furnished me with a memorandum containing the information for the years 1808(?) and 1909, from which it appears that the actual wholesale cost of merchandise alone, taken to the islands was $30,650.13 in 1908 and $23,130.46 in 1909. This does not include the cost of the coal, in respect to which he would not furnish a statement of the exact cost, but quoted the actual number of tons furnished at the retail selling price of $20 per ton.

The merchandise ordered by the company for 1909 was reduced to a minimum because of the possibility of its going out of business the following year and with a view of using up what surplus stock it might have upon the islands. The requisition for 1908 more nearly represents the normal cost of supplies furnished the natives annually, according to Mr. Davis.

I knew from actual experience that the natives during these years were given no more than they actually needed and that no unnecessary articles were included in the requisitions for those years. I feel, therefore, safe in reporting that it will be impossible to keep the natives from actual want, including the widows and orphans whom heretofore the Government has not supported, on the $19,500 appropriation which Congress has made.

It must be remembered that the figures just quoted do not include the cost of coal furnished annually, for which an annual allowance of something like $4,000 must be made and added to the cost of merchandise already given. Of course, the merchandise purchased includes the supplies for the mess and for the maintenance of the company buildings and property which can not be segregated, but the figures are sufficient to show the impossibility of feeding and clothing the people and keeping the purchases inside of the old amount allowed by Congress to supplement the natives' earnings.

The goods purchased this year cost no more than formerly, and the purchases followed closely the island requisitions, the items on which were closely scrutinized by me before purchasing.

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully submit that to furnish the natives with sufficient material to prevent suffering the appropriation of $19,500 must be exceeded. In computing the expense to the Government of the business on the seal islands during the coming year I have made made the following tentative estimate:

EXPENDITURES.

Purchase of company's plant, approximate	$70,000
Cost of vessel at $200 per day, including coal	20,000
Cost of supporting natives, about	28,000
Salaries of temporary employees, about	9,000
Miscellaneous expenses, not ascertainable	10,000
Total	137,000

RESOURCES.

Balance from natives' appropriation 1910, about	5,700
Appropriation for natives, 1911	19,500
Appropriation for protection seal fisheries	150,000
Total	175,200
Excess of resources over expenditures	38,200

I therefore respectfully submit that there will be ample funds to maintain the natives and to meet all other expenses provided other appropriations are used than the $19,500 for natives' support. It is clear that a portion of the appropration of $150,000 will have to be devoted to purchasing their supplies, and I so recommend.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY, *Agent Seal Fisheries.*

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

1908.

First trip:		
St. Paul, merchandise	$14,682.86	
St. Paul, coal, 50 tons	1,000.00	
St. George, merchandise	8,528.52	
Total, first trip		$24,211.38
(Merchandise, first trip, $23,211.38; coal, $1,000.)		
Second trip:		
St. Paul, merchandise	4,780.41	
St. Paul, coal, 50 tons	1,000.00	
St. George, merchandise	2,658.34	
Total, second trip		8,438.75
Total from San Francisco, 1908		32,650.13

(Merchandise, second trip, $7,438.75; coal, $1,000.)

1909.

First trip:		
St. Paul, merchandise	$10,025.73	
St. Paul, coal, 170 tons	3,400.00	
St. George, merchandise	6,333.10	
Total, first trip		$19,758.83
(Merchandise, first trip, $16,358.83; coal, $3,400.)		
Second trip:		
St. Paul, merchandise	4,950.25	
St. George, merchandise	1,821.38	
Total, second trip		6,771.63
Total from San Francisco for 1909		26,530.46
(Merchandise, second trip, $6,771.63.)		

FROM DUTCH HARBOR.

1908.

St. Paul, coal, 265 tons	$5,300.00	
St. George, coal, 185 tons	3,700.00	
Total coal, Dutch Harbor, 1908		$9,000.00

1909.

St. Paul, coal, 175 tons	3,500.00	
St. George, coal, 185 tons	3,700.00	
Total coal, Dutch Harbor, 1909		7,200.00
Totals:		
1908—		
Merchandise	30,650.13	
Coal, 550 tons	11,000.00	
Total merchandise and coal, 1908		41,650.13
1909—		
Merchandise	23,130.46	
Coal, 530 tons	10,600.00	
Total merchandise and coal, 1909		33,730.46

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 6, 1910.*

To BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Your letter 2d; purchases already made, including some ship's coal, exceed $23,000; supplies for second trip yet to be purchased. Company expended for merchandise alone, excluding coal, $36,650 in 1908 and $23,130 in 1909. Coal cost about $4,500 annually in addition. Can not restrict expenditures for natives' supplies to $19,000 without depriving natives absolute necessities of life. I estimate total expenditures this year as follows: Purchase company's plant, $70,000; cost of vessel, at $200 a day, $20,000, including coal; supporting natives, about $28,000; salaries of temporary employees, about $9,000; miscellaneous expenses not anticipated, $10,000; total expenditures, $137,000. Resources available are: Balance natives' appropriation, 1910, about $5,700; natives' appropriation, 1911, $19,500; appropriation for protecting seal fisheries, $150,000; total resources, $175,200; unexpended balance, about $38,000. Company's

figures are from full statement furnished me by it, which I mail to-day with letter wire.

LEMBKEY.

JUNE 7, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Special appropriation $150,000 not available for native supplies, therefore vouchers for this account must show goods are for general use other than natives.

Vouchers for supplies for natives charged to balance of native appropriation 1910 must show purchase and delivery prior to June 30.

Vouchers for supplies for natives charged to native appropriation 1911 must show date of purchase and be accompanied by statement certifying goods are for use during fiscal year 1911.

Do not charge goods for general use against appropriation for natives.

Use great care in preparing vouchers.

Make separate vouchers for goods purchased for account of different appropriations as above.

BOWERS.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 7, 1910.*

To BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Your telegram 7th just received. Do I understand you to mean that goods are to be purchased for natives' use to extent of $19,000 and remainder necessary supplies to be purchased, as for general use under authority Secretary in act April 20 or to maintain supply depots on islands? Natives will earn next year about $15,000 from seals, foxes, and labor, which will have to be expended now for supplies. Government is confronted with fact that total amount required to supply islands with sufficient merchandise to prevent suffering is at least $30,000, and owing to no further communication after this vessel returns, no mistakes can be rectified; bills all received and checked; vouchers partially made out, and vessel practically loaded; any material change in plan of action will delay vessel at additional expense.

LEMBKEY.

JUNE 8, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Replying yours 8th, no change in plan is contemplated.

Only question involved is proper vouchering of accounts and charging them to proper appropriations.

Goods for free distribution to natives must be charged against appropriations for care of natives as per mine of 7th.

Other goods and supplies which are to be sold or used for employees and maintenance of plants to be charged against special appropriation under authority to maintain supply depots.

Voucher your accounts accordingly.

Study mine of 7th carefully.

BOWERS.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 5, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Your several letters of May 26 and 29 have been received and are very satisfactory.

The schedule of the movements of the *Homer* is noted and seems well planned.

I wish to express the gratification of the Secretary and myself with the arrangements you made with the North American Commercial Co. looking to a settlement for the property belonging to the company. It is felt that you have made excellent terms.

I am pleased to note the assistance you had from the company in making contracts for and purchases of merchandise and feel confident that you have done the best possible under all the circumstances.

In view of the facts you mention, and as has already been stated in a telegram sent you, it is believed that it will be right and proper to carry any merchandise for the company that it may wish to take to or bring from the islands free of cost and to give transportation to their employees returning to or coming from the islands upon payment for any actual expenses to the Government. It is also deemed proper for you to transport the three natives of Unalaska and vicinity provided they pay the ship for the meals. Copies of your letters will be shown to Mr. Chichester in order that he may be guided in the work next summer.

The desirability of the paying for all expenses for the natives from the appropriations of $19,500 has already been covered by telegram which have been sent you. By this time you will have received the Bureau's previous letter showing what sort of a statement should be appended to each voucher. The vouchers are to show the actual date of the purchase and delivery of the goods but with the statement referred to that they are to be paid for from next year's appropriation. There will be no delay whatever in sending checks immediately after July 1. If, by any chance, the $19,500 appropriation does not become a law the bills will be paid from the large appropriation.

The charter for the *Homer* has been received and is now being examined by the disbursing officer in order to see that it is absolutely correct. If there are any technical errors in it they will be rectified and there will be no trouble in paying the owners in accordance with the idea of the charter.

Respectfully, (Signed) GEORGE W. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

[True copy for files.]

JUNE 6, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco:

Referring section 7 your orders May 9, you will reserve 1,000 three-year-old males instead of 500.

CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

JUNE 9, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Did you receive Secretary's telegram June 6 directing reserve of 1,000 three-year-old male seals instead of 500? Answer.

BOWERS.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 9, 1910.*

BOWERS, *Commissioner of Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Yours ninth; nothing received changing instructions branded bachelors. Vessel sails eleventh, 1 p. m. Cargo loaded; vouchers prepared and delivered merchants accordance your instructions seventh.

LEMBKEY.

[Copy for files.]

JUNE 10, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Referring section 7 your orders May 9, you will reserve 1,000 three-year-old males instead of 500.

CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 7, 1910.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES, *Washington, D. C.*

SIR: When the *Homer* arrives back with the sealskins in September I will not be informed of what disposition to make of the skins, and consequently will not be able to instruct Capt. Donaldson whether to tie up at a dock on the San Francisco side of the bay or to proceed to Oakland, where the skins may at once be placed in casks and loaded into cars, as has been done heretofore.

In order to provide for this contingency, I have respectfully to suggest that you correspond with the North American Commercial Co. at such time before the arrival of the ship in September that the company may be able to prepare a letter to me and place it in the hands of the boarding officer of this port to be delivered to me on

board the steamer, so that I may be able to know before the ship reaches the dock where to direct the *Homer* to proceed with the skins. In this way all delay will be avoided in relinquishing the ship to the owners.

Should it be decided to pack the sealskins in casks and to have the latter ready upon the arrival of the ship, I will state that the casks required will hold 30 bundles or 60 sealskins each, and the number of casks required may be computed on that basis. I will endeavor to report the catch beforehand from the islands by wireless.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 8, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Transmitted herewith, with the recommendation that it be accepted, is the original copy of charter party between J. Homer Fritch (Inc.), San Francisco, Cal., and W. I. Lembkey, agent seal fisheries, for use of steamship *Homer* for a period of about three and one-half months at the rate of $142.50 per day. Mr. Lembkey has been directed to forward at once additional copies of the charter.

Accompanying the original are the following:

Copy of a resolution passed August 21, 1908, authorizing J. Homer Fritch, president, and Douglas Young, secretary, to sign instruments in behalf of J. Homer Fritch (Inc.).

Certification of the secretary of state of California that the copy of the articles of incorporation of J. Homer Fritch (Inc.) therewith attached are correct.

Copy of articles of incorporation of J. Homer Fritch (Inc.).

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

JUNE 9, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Statements are made that female seals were killed on Pribilof Islands with the cognizance of Government agents. Wire answer, stating facts.

BOWERS.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 9.*

BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Your telegram ninth regarding female seals killed. I saw before I left Washington letter from Elliott making such charges and I prepared memorandum in reply, attaching it to his letter filed in bureau.

Basis Elliott's charges follow: On August 3, 1903, senatorial committee landed St. Paul, after close sealing season, and desired to see seal killing. At that time males and females mix promiscously on hauling grounds and great difficulty for best expert to differentiate between sexes. I told committee I would make drive, but stated facts about females liable to be killed. Made drive and killing August 4, at which only experienced natives acted as clubbers. Natives excited by presence 25 strangers, result one female killed by accident and taken by natives directly in front of Senator Nelson, who discovered sex and charged me with allowing females to be killed. Explanations availed nothing, and Nelson believes to-day females killed on islands regular practice. Elliott learned of this incident and reported it to F. S. Hitchcock, who understood matter after my explanation. This drive was made by me, and lessee had nothing to do with it.

As matter of fact, probably five females killed on islands each year by accident, because of their mixing among bachelors at close of season and difficulty distinguishing sex every instance. Last season four females killed St. Paul and shown by me to G. W. Clark, who reported it. This in spite of greatest care. If Elliott states females killed deliberately, he is a liar.

LEMBKEY.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 9, 1910.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of the sailing orders delivered by me to Capt. Adam Donaldson, master of the steamer *Homer*.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 11, 1910.*

Capt. A. DONALDSON,
Master Steamer "Homer," San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Your vessel being in readiness, you will put to sea to-day as soon as possible after 1 o'clock p. m. and proceed direct to Dutch Harbor, Alaska. After taking on fuel there, you will proceed to St. George Island, and, weather permitting, discharge freight and passengers destined there. You will then proceed to St. Paul Island, where you will discharge freight and passengers destined there. Thenceforth you will follow the inclosed sailing schedule as closely as conditions will permit.

A memorandum statement should be kept of all meals furnished to passengers on the vessel, also all overtime of the crew on each voyage, and an extra copy of the mate's and engineer's logs should be kept by each of them, which should be given to me at the expiration of the charter.

The undersigned will be a passenger on this vessel, and after leaving this port will assume charge of the department's interests. He will also act as supercargo. When approaching the Golden Gate on your

return you are requested, if it is convenient, to endeavor to give one of the telegraphic stations an opportunity to report your vessel.

As soon as possible after your return to San Francisco you will proceed with your vessel to the Western Fuel Co.'s bunkers, there to take on board 370 tons of Comox screenings for fuel to be consumed on your second trip from San Francisco to the seal islands and return.

It is expected that Mr. H. D. Chichester, assistant agent, will be in San Francisco to make all necessary arrangements for the second voyage. He will inform you regarding the movements of the vessel and also will act as supercargo on the second trip north.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 9, 1910.

Mr. HARRY D. CHICHESTER,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: It has come to my notice that reports are in circulation that female seals were killed on the Pribilof Islands during the season of 1909, and that the Government agents were cognizant of such killing. Please advise me in writing of the facts in the case.

Respectfully,

(Signed) GEORGE W. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 10, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 9th instant, requesting the facts in the case of reports that are in circulation that female seals were killed on the Pribilof Islands during the season of 1909, and that the Government agents were cognizant of such killing.

I have the honor to report the following:

I spent the entire sealing season of 1909 on St. George Island and was present at each killing, both at the village and Zapadnie. During that period two female seals were killed. These seals were in one of the late drives and were struck by the clubbers purely by accident. The utmost care has always been exercised by the clubbers when female seals are in the drives, but in the shifting mass of seals on the killing field a female is occasionally struck. The fact that only two females were killed on St. George Island during the season of 1909 shows conclusively that the killing was entirely accidental.

Very respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 9, 1910.

Prof. B. W. EVERMANN,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: It has come to my notice that reports are in circulation that female seals were killed on the Pribilof Islands during the season of 1909, and that the Government agents were cognizant of such killing. Please advise me in writing of the facts in the case.

Respectfully,

(Signed) GEORGE W. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 10, 1910.

TO THE COMMISSIONER:

Replying to your letter of the 9th instant, in which you state that you have learned that reports are in circulation to the effect that female seals were killed on the Pribilof Islands during the season of 1909, that the agents were cognizant of such killing, and requesting to be advised in writing as to the facts in the case, I beg to state that I was not on the islands in 1909 and possess no knowledge of what seals were killed at that time. All that I have in the matter is information based upon the reports and statements of Agents Lembkey and Chichester, who were on the islands during the killing season of 1909 and who spent the past winter in Washington, and upon the report of Mr. George A. Clark, who went to the islands in the season of 1909 as special expert for the bureau.

I have been advised by Agents Lembkey and Chichester that not a single female fur seal was intentionally killed on the Pribilof Islands in the season of 1909. Assistant Agent Chichester states that two were inadvertently killed on St. George in that season. Agent Lembkey is not now in Washington and I am, therefore, unable to secure a written statement from him. He stated to me, however, at various times when in Washington during the past winter that every precaution possible was taken to prevent the killing of any female seals on St. Paul.

There is transmitted herewith a statement from Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester regarding this matter.

Very respectfully,

BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry.

[Telegram.]

REVENUE CUTTER "BEAR,"
At Sea, June 10, 1910.

COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.:

Company drawing on Dutch Harbor for one month's supplies. Everything here exhausted. Sealing instructions desired.

JUDGE.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, June 10, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Room 218, Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Prof. Harold Heath, of Palo Alto, will accompany you as naturalist. Endeavor to communicate with him and make the necessary arrangements.

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 11, 1910.*

BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Homer sailed 1.30 p. m. Heath sworn oath of office. Campbell aboard. Redpath and McMullin go up for company. Notify my wife; telephone Cleveland 203 of sailing. Correspond with company freely regarding any information or instructions for second trip.

LEMBKEY.

[Telegram.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE "TAHOMA,"
June 24–30, 1910.

BOWERS, *Commissioner of Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Homer arrived Dutch Harbor, from San Francisco. Safe passage, 13½ days. All well on islands.

LEMBKEY.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 11, 1910.*

BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Thanks for your letter, June 6; will sail to-morrow, 1 p. m. Heath notified date of sailing; could not get doctor. Applied all hospitals and medical schools, but only one applicant responded, and he

declined after ascertainment facts; have physicians looking for doctors to send on second trip; company will notify you if any likely applicant discovered. Fritch will require usual commission, 5 per cent, for disbursing amount for stevedores, extra time, crew, freight, clerks, watchmen, etc., connection with *Homer*. Will retain present physicians and cooks on islands until arrival vessels there second trip. Will offer Proctor Melovidof and others salaries, as agreed upon in Washington. If Chinese help required for islands, Chichester will have to pay $10 to Chinese go-between, in accordance usual practice; otherwise no cooks can be obtained. Expenditures aggregate as follows: Natives (1910), $2,745.70; natives (1911), $13,908.96; special appropriation, $6,888.04. Received to-day Secretary's telegram increasing quota marked "3-year-olds" to 1,000. Will report from islands by wireless whenever necessary.

LEMBKEY.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 27, 1910.*

BOWERS, *Commissioner Fisheries,*
Washington, D. C.:

Arrived here to-day. Address care North American Commercial Co., Mills Building. Ship taking coal to-day; will push fitting to utmost.

CHICHESTER.

[Copy.]

OFFICE OF AGENT SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 5, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: The *Homer* arrived at St. George on June 28, and, after discharging her cargo for that island, left the same night for St. Paul. Arriving at the latter island June 29 at daybreak, the work of discharging cargo began at 5 a. m. and continued during the 29th and 30th and the early morning of July 1, when the ship was discharged and left for Dutch Harbor at 8 a. m. to take on a cargo of coal for natives' use. She will return here about July 12 and will then take on the company's employees and proceed to San Francisco.

Because of head winds, the *Homer* was 13 days and 4 hours in making the passage from San Francisco to Dutch Harbor, instead of the 12 days estimated. Since then, however, she has caught up with her schedule and it is believed will gain somewhat on it, although everything depends upon the weather at the time of the vessel's discharging at the islands.

Upon my arrival I found that considerable anxiety existed among the natives and others as to the time of arrival of the supply ship, and the arrangements which would be made for the conduct of business on the islands. Information had been received from the cutter officers of the change of conditions, but nothing as to what efforts were being put forth by the department for assuming charge of practical affairs. This anxiety was heightened by the fact that

the supply of some articles on St. Paul had been consumed, and it had become necessary in the early part of June to obtain by the *Manning* from Dutch Harbor a quantity of flour, biscuits, salt beef, and canned vegetables for natives' consumption. They had also received the impression that the supply ship would not arrive before August, and that they would be obliged to labor for the Government without any compensation other than clothing and a ration of food.

It was my first effort to remove these impressions and establish relations of confidence with the natives. In fact, the arrival of a ship's load of supplies and a gunny sack containing about 150 pounds of coin operated automatically to remove the greater portion of this uncertainty. In addition, I had conferences with individual natives and with the assembled communities of both islands, explaining the changes which occurred during the past winter, and assuring them that it is the intention of the department to better the condition of the natives in every manner possible. All of these have had the effect of reassuring the natives and removing uncertainty. The continuance of cash payments for sundry labor, the increase in the rate of payment for sealskins, and the publication of the rate at which merchandise will be sold to them from the store were received with satisfaction.

The cooperation of the natives during the sealing season is vitally essential to conducting the business at its greatest efficiency. Without this cooperation it would be an easy matter to fail to secure several thousands of skins during a season or to have "errors" occur in the curing of skins which could never be traced to any individual nor charged successfully to deliberate intention. It is necessary, therefore, to be assured of the good will of the people, and to gain and retain this will be a matter of constant thought.

To state that this has been attained is no distortion of fact. On June 30 from 5 a. m. to 10 p. m. the natives of St. Paul discharged 165 tons of coal, dead weight, from the *Homer*—the greatest amount of merchandise ever landed on the islands on one day. The previous record was 150 tons, landed from the *Lakme* nearly 20 years ago. As regards "branding" and sealing, under the able direction of Mr. Judge the natives are going at it as if they were working on shares.

Having received no recent instructions previous to my arrival, Agent Judge, on St. Paul, had "branded" 337 two-year-olds, in addition to several hundreds of 3-year-olds. The remainder of the 3-year-olds to be marked under my instructions have been secured since. The details of the branding on St. Paul follow:

Date.	Rookeries.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.
June 17	Reef	46	77	.....	.....
June 27	Zapadni	82	56	.....	.....
June 28	Reef and Gorbatch	209	146	14	5
July 2	Northeast Point	.....	246	.....	.....
July 4	Reef	.....	191	.....	.....
July 5	Zapadni	.....	91	.....	.....
	Total	337	807	14	5

No word from St. George has been received since my departure from that island, but it is believed that the St. George quota of 200 three-year-olds has been secured by this time.

Regarding killable seals, I will say that the ice remained in the sea until such a late date and the spring has been so backward that bachelors are not arriving in their usual numbers. On the date of my arrival 675 skins were in the salt house at St. George and 1,573 on St. Paul. From the latter, however, 664 have been delivered to the late lessee to complete its quota for 1909, as authorized by a letter from the bureau, but we have more than made up this number by skins secured from recent drives. Notwithstanding the present unfavorable aspect, I feel sure that at least 10,000 skins can be secured during the season and hope that this minimum number can be exceeded.

Reports of the breeding rookeries indicate that more breeding bulls are present than on this date last year and that, with a decreasing number of cows, many of these bulls will be idle. Further reservations of males should be curtailed, as more than enough are present now.

The Japanese fleet is active as usual. On July 4, 14 schooners were in sight off St. Paul Island. None have approached close to land and no violations of law have been noted. A heavy native guard is maintained on Northeast Point.

Since my arrival, one cutter has been on duty at the two islands, dividing its time between them. Because of the curtailing of the number of patrol vessels this year from 4 to 3, both extremities of this island are not under surveillance by cutters as heretofore, and greater opportunity is given the sealing fleet for coming close to shore, which no shore guard can prevent.

The property of the company was formally delivered to the Government on July 1. Since that time, the company's employees have been taking new inventories as of that date. During the last winter, the entire village was painted by the company, and everything placed in first-class condition in anticipation of a possible sale of the property to a new lessee.

In case the bureau does not adopt my recommendation that Mr. Proctor be placed in charge on St. George during the ensuing winter, I have designated Agent Clark to remain a second year. Of all the assistant agents, he alone has not been called upon to remain two years in succession since 1898. He is, however, very desirous of returning this year, and I trust the recommendation which I have made involving Mr. Proctor be adopted.

As already stated, I should be informed at the earliest practicable date of the disposition to be made of sealskins to be landed in San Francisco from the *Homer* in September. I probably will have opportunity of reporting to the department by wireless the number of skins to be shipped.

Respectfully,

(Signed) W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 6, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries, St. Paul, Alaska.

SIR: It is the desire of this bureau that during the present season a strong effort be made on both islands to feed as many of the starving pups whose mothers are killed at sea as possible.

Yourself and assistant agents are therefore directed to take up this work, using the natives whenever possible, to procure fish for food and in the handling and feeding of the pups.

The details of carrying out this work are left to your discretion.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

Approved.

CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

[Memorandum.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 12, 1910.

The commissioner directs that Mr. Judge be instructed to remain on St. Paul next winter, that Chichester remain on St. George, and that Mr. Lembkey and Maj. Clark return to Washington by last steamer in the fall.

NOTE.—I'll draw the orders in due time.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 26, 1910.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent Fur-Seal Service, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: Until further orders the assignments of agents, doctors, naturalist, fur-seal service, will be as follows:

1. Mr. Lembkey, Maj. Clark, and Dr. Heath will return to San Francisco on the last trip of the *Homer*, and agents Lembkey and Clark will report for duty in Washington as promptly as possible.
2. Assistant Agent Judge will remain on St. Paul Island until the close of the season of 1911, and Assistant Agent Chichester is assigned to St. George Island.
3. Dr. Hahn, the naturalist, is assigned to St. Paul Island until further orders.
4. Dr. Mills will remain on St. Paul as resident physician.
5. Dr. de Figariere is assigned to St. George as resident physician, relieving Dr. Cunningham.
6. Mr. Simeon Melovidof remains as school-teacher on St. Paul.
7. Mr. Ben Campbell has been assigned to St. George as school-teacher.

8. You will make assignments of other employees, permanent or temporary, as seems best for the service, and furnish transportation to San Francisco to all former employees of the North American Commercial Co. whose services are not required by the bureau.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

Approved.

BENJ. S. CABLE, *Acting Secretary.*

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *August, 1910.*

COMMISSIONER FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.:

Do instructions for Lembkey, mailed to-day, assign Judge for duty in island this winter? Mrs. Judge now in Seattle. If Judge is to stay necessary to communicate with her at once that she may return here before ship sails; ship sails August 6.

CHICHESTER.

NOTE.—Judge, St. Paul; Chichester, St. George; Lembkey and Clark return.

BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
August 2, 1910.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Replying yours August 1, Judge is to be on St. Paul Island, Chichester on St. George, Lembkey and Clark to return to Washington.

DUNLAP.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., August 3, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of telegram, dated August 2, 1910, in reference to assignment of seal agents for the coming winter, and also telegram of August 3, affirming selection of Dr. Morgan to take place of Dr. Mills.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 20, 1910.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: You are directed to proceed by the shortest and most direct route from Washington, D. C., to San Francisco, Cal., and on the arrival at that port of the United States chartered steamer *Homer* from the Pribilof Islands you are authorized to purchase such additional supplies as will be needed on the islands during the coming winter, being guided in such purchases entirely by the requisitions which you will receive from Mr. Lembkey. You will also purchase at the lowest price obtainable the necessary coal to take the *Homer* to the Pribilof Islands and return to San Francisco. It is thought about 372 tons will be sufficient. As soon after her arrival as possible the *Homer* is to be loaded and prepared for sea. When she is thus ready she will proceed direct to the Pribilof Islands, touching en route at Dutch Harbor. You will accompany the vessel to the islands, and on arrival there report to Mr. Lembkey for assignment to duty.

On the presentation of proper vouchers you will be reimbursed for your actual and necessary expenses while engaged as above.

Refer to the number of this order in your monthly account taking up expenses incurred and upon the face and coupon of Government requests for transportation issued for travel in connection therewith.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

Approved.

CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 25, 1910.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent Fur-Seal Service,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: You are informed that Dr. Walter L. Hahn, of South Dakota, has been appointed naturalist, fur-seal service. It is expected that he, with his wife, will arrive at St. Paul Island on the second trip of the *Homer*. You will assign to him suitable and adequate living quarters conformable in comfort and adaptability with those of the agent in charge.

The duties of the naturalist will be in conformity with the recommendations of the advisory board, fur-seal service, namely, the naturalist "shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the investigation, study, and management of the fur-seal herd, the blue foxes, and all other life on the islands, and shall give advice to the agent in charge regarding the number of seals and foxes to be killed each season." You as agent in charge will "have control of all administrative matters, and in case of a difference of opinion between the chief naturalist and the agent in charge the decision of the latter

shall govern, pending an appeal to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

Referring to the instructions of March 29, 1909, issued to you (a copy of which is inclosed herewith and a copy of which has been furnished Dr. Hahn), the naturalist will be charged specifically with the matters mentioned in topics 4, 10, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 22. Such data on these various subjects as have already been compiled by you and the assistant agents should be made available for Dr. Hahn's use, and you will lend him such assistance as he may desire or require in their further completion.

All matters pertaining to the health and general well-being of the natives are placed under the general supervision of the naturalist and under the immediate direction of Assistant Agent Dr. Chichester, who is specifically charged with the development and application of methods for the study of all questions concerning the proper care of the natives and the betterment of their physical and moral condition.

All educational matters are placed under the immediate supervision of the naturalist. While all natural history, scientific, and educational matters will be lodged with the naturalist, it is understood that he will confer with the agent in charge regarding any and all contemplated important investigations, and that any investigation or study involving the factor of administration, such as the expenditure of money, the employment of labor, or the use of property not specifically a part of the naturalist's equipment, shall be referred to the agent in charge for his approval.

It is desired that the agents, naturalist, doctors, and teachers cooperate in every proper and possible way to the end that the highest degree of efficiency possible may be attained and maintained in each and every branch of the service.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

Approved.

BENJ. S. CABLE, *Acting Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 25, 1910.

Dr. HARRY D. CHICHESTER,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: There is inclosed herewith copy of the health card, fur-seal service, which you drew up. It has been approved for printing, and you are authorized to have 1,000 copies printed in San Francisco. It is believed best that you have the printing done there where you can read the proof. It is perhaps unnecessary to suggest that you consider very carefully the form, character of paper, etc., to be used and that you carefully read the proof.

Kindly mail a dozen copies to this office for the files.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

FUR-SEAL SERVICE, DEPARTMENT COMMERCE AND LABOR.

HEALTH CARD.

——— ISLAND, ALASKA,
Date ———, 19—.

Physical examination made by ———.
Name ——— ———. Sex ———.
Age ———. Where born ———. Date of birth ———.
How born ———. Breast or bottle fed ———.
Menstruation began ———. Character of menstruation ———.
Number of pregnancies ———. Number of children living ———; dead ———.
Number of abortions ———.
Previous diseases: Evidences of syphilis, gout, rheumatism, ———.
Goiter, infectious or other diseases, ———.
History above diseases, ———.
Present physical condition: Face, ———; eyes, ———; palate, ———; ears, ———; teeth, ———; hair, ———; skin, ———; complexion, ———; height, ———; weight, ———.
The patient is ——— nourished. Subcutaneous tissue present in ——— amount.
Muscles are ——— and ——— developed.
Mucus membranes ———.
Fractures, deformities, scars, bruises, eruptions, growths. Description of each: ———.
Vision, defects, color blindness ———.
Thorax and lungs: Chest, ———; sternum, ———; ribs, ———; lungs, expansion, ———; respiratory rate, ———. Findings: ———.
Sputum examination, ———.
Heart. Findings: ———.
Radial pulse, ———.
Arteriosclerosis, ———; blood pressure, ———.
Varicose veins, ———.
Abdominal and digestive organs. Findings: ———.
Liver. Findings: ———.
Spleen. Findings: ———.
Urinary organs, ———.
Genital organs, ———.
Urinalysis, ———.
Nervous system. Findings: ———.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., July 31, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th instant authorizing the printing in San Francisco of 1,000 copies health card, fur-seal service.

I have arranged with a printing firm to do the work, and as soon the cards are delivered will forward a dozen copies to the bureau as directed.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

JULY 25, 1910.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.:

Telegram from Pritch says *Homer* arrived Saturday. Proceed promptly with outfitting. What is your mail and telegraph address? Wire answer.

DUNLAP, *Acting Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 26, 1910.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent Fur-Seal Service,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: Until further orders the assignments of agents, doctors, naturalist, fur-seal service, will be as follows:

1. Mr. Lembkey, Maj. Clark, and Dr. Heath will return to San Francisco on the last trip of the *Homer*, and Agents Lembkey and Clark will report for duty in Washington as promptly as possible.
2. Assistant Agent Judge will remain on St. Paul Island until the close of the season of 1911, and Assistant Agent Chichester is assigned to St. George Island.
3. Dr. Hahn, the naturalist, is assigned to St. Paul Island until further orders.
4. Dr. Mills will remain on St. Paul as resident physician.
5. Dr. de Figariere is assigned to St. George as resident physician, relieving Dr. Cunningham.
6. Mr. Simeon Melovidof remains as school-teacher on St. Paul.
7. Mr. Ben Campbell has been assigned to St. George as school-teacher.
8. You will make assignments of other employees, permanent or temporary, as seems best for the service, and furnish transportation to San Francisco to all former employees of the North American Commercial Co. whose services are not required by the bureau.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

Approved.

BENJ. S. CABLE, *Acting Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 27, 1910.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent Fur-Seal Service,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: The following instructions are issued supplementary to those furnished you under date of May 9, 1910:

Naturalist.—The naturalist will have charge of all matters pertaining to the investigation, study, and management of the fur-seal herd, the blue foxes, and all other life on the islands, and he shall give advice to the agent in charge regarding the number of seals and foxes to be killed each season. He will also have direct supervision of all educational matters and general supervision of all matters pertaining to health and well-being of the natives.

1. The most important duty of the naturalist lies, of course, with the seal herd. Should the factor of pelagic sealing be eliminated, the way becomes clear for intelligent, scientific investigation and experimentation, having for their object the rehabilitation of the fur-seal herd and its maintenance at maximum efficiency and productive-

ness. This is purely a natural-history problem, to be worked out chiefly in accordance of the principles of animal breeding. Just what can be done remains to be determined, but it is expected that the naturalist will give his best thought and endeavor to this problem. In the event that pelagic sealing continues, the studies made should be with reference to the maximum conservation and efficiency of the herd under the conditions and as a basis for future investigations.

2. The blue foxes are second in importance only to the fur seals. It is believed that the blue-fox herd on each island can, through proper care, selective breeding, elimination of the unfit, proper feeding, etc., be made much more productive than at present. It is confidently expected that, with the assistance of the agents, the herd can be greatly increased and the revenues derived therefrom correspondingly augmented.

3. The betterment of the physical and moral condition of the natives is earnestly desired.

The service for the study of these problems is placed under the immediate direction of Dr. Chichester who, under the general supervision of the naturalist, will organize the service with a view to securing the highest efficiency and speedy practical results. Attention is directed to office letter of March 31, 1909, in which is pointed out the exceptional opportunity which the islands offer for study of problems concerning public and individual health. The letter of March 31, 1909, is to be regarded as forming a part of these instructions.

All these problems should be taken up at once and their investigation pursued continuously and persistently to solution. With many of them, important practical results should be easy of early attainment. Special and immediate attention should be given to those problems the study of which will lead promptly to results of real benefit to the natives. Among these may be mentioned the following:

Sanitary inspection of houses, water supply, etc.; directions and suggestions to natives regarding food, clothing, personal habits, etc.; physical examination and filling out of health card for each; determining and putting on record present conditions as a basis for future investigation. One problem which should be carefully studied is that of inbreeding. In small communities such as these, into which little new blood comes from the outside, there is sure to be too close inbreeding, with all the attendant evils. The blood relationship of the various natives should be made out as definitely as possible, particularly of man and wife. When close relationship is discovered, determine what evil effects, if any, on the children. Consider these questions in connection with the rules and practices of the church as to marriage. Consider also what can be done toward bringing new blood to the islands.

It is expected that the resident physicians will promptly and effectively cooperate in every way possible with Dr. Chichester and the naturalist in the study of these various problems.

It is desired that Dr. Chichester submit a full and detailed report to the bureau next summer showing what has been accomplished to date and indicating future work contemplated.

4. *Schools.*—The question of the proper education of the youth of the islands is an important one and should receive careful consideration. If one may judge from reports made at various times by the agents, the results of public-school education on the islands are far

from satisfactory. One agent states that after more than 20 years of Government control there were not half dozen natives who had learned to speak or read the English language by attendance at the public school. It is desired that the naturalist at once take up the whole question of public education on the islands, giving consideration to the following phases of the question: (1) Type of education best meeting the needs of the people. It is suggested that manual training, industrial or technical education, such as will give them skill in the use of simple tools, the manufacture of useful articles, carpentry, cooking, sewing, and the textile arts, as basketry, etc., should occupy a prominent place in their training. (2) Anatomy, physiology, and hygiene, to the end that they may understand sufficiently the structure and functions of their own bodies to appreciate the principles of hygiene and how to care for their health. Habits of personal cleanliness, judgment and care in the selection, wearing, and care of clothing, the selection, preparation, and use of food, etc. (3) Elementary science should occupy a prominent place in their education. The simple phenomena and facts of physics, chemistry, meteorology, zoology, botany, and geology, as may be learned by them first hand from direct observation and study of the materials and forces about them, will lead them to right thinking and right acting. (4) They must, of course, have the 3 R tools—reading, writing, and arithmetic—and the use of English at all times should be required. (5) Geography, history, patriotism, etc., should be taught as effectively as may be, considering their inexperience of the outside world. (6) Consider carefully whether proper textbooks and illustrative materials have been supplied.

5. *Natural-history matters of secondary importance.*—In addition to the fur seals and blue foxes, all other species of animals and all species of plants on or about the islands should receive attention to the end that, in due time, a comprehensive and exhaustive monograph of the natural history of the Pribilof Islands may be written. The character and scope of the field and laboratory work can be fully worked out by the naturalist. The following suggestions, however, are submitted: Mammals: The mammals are few as to species. The life history of each should be studied carefully. Every effort should be made to reestablish the locally extinct and diminishing species (as the walrus, sea otter, etc.), to increase the numbers of those of commercial value (as the sea lion, harbor seal, etc.), and to conserve every species in ample numbers for natural-history purposes. Birds: Attention is called to the fact that the Pribilof Islands, including the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Walrus and Otter Islands, and Sea Lion Rock, are declared a special reservation by the act of April 21, 1910 (Public, No. 146); also that by Executive Order No. 1044, of February 27, 1909, Walrus Island and Otter Island of the Pribilof Group were reserved and designated as the Pribilof Reservation, and set apart as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds.

On April 16, 1909, Assistant Agent James Judge was appointed special warden in charge of the Pribilof Reservation. It is desired that Mr. Judge continue with those duties, under the naturalist, and the detailed instructions of April 16, 1909, are here repeated.

WALRUS ISLAND.

Physical features.—Examine the island as thoroughly as possible and draw up a detailed description of it, giving position, area, character of rock and surface, character of shores, landings, etc., elevation, topography, etc.

Biological features.—Compile all obtainable knowledge and information regarding the plants, insects, mammals, and other life on or about the island.

Plants.—What plants, if any, occur on this island; where do they occur; their habits; to what extent are they utilized by the birds in nest building or otherwise?

Walrus.—Compile all obtainable information regarding the occurrence of the walrus at this island; the same for sea lions, seals, sea otters, and any other mammals that are known to have occurred there.

Birds.—These will receive most attention and should be studied comprehensively and thoroughly. List all the species known to occur on the island, determining those which are permanent residents (i. e., present throughout the year); winter visitants (i. e., those coming to the island only in winter); stragglers (or those of irregular and rare occurrence); spring and fall migrants (or those species stopping at the island only for a brief time during their spring and fall migrations and not breeding on the island); and summer residents (i. e., those species which arrive upon the island in the spring, remain through the summer, lay their eggs, rear their young, and leave in the fall). The permanent residents and the summer residents (i. e., the species that breed on the island) are the ones which can be studied most thoroughly. Each species should be studied as fully as possible, as indicated in the following outline:

Arrival at the island (if not a permanent resident), meteorological conditions, such as direction and strength of wind at that time, same data for departure; abundance (relative and actual); breeding habits, including time of nesting, construction, location, character and care of nest; number of eggs laid; incubation, period, and by which parent accomplished; to what extent will other eggs be laid if the first are destroyed; the young, appearance when hatched, feeding and care, growth and leaving nest; feeding and food of adults, what the food is; where and how obtained, and relation to supply of food fishes, fox food, other birds, etc.; destruction of eggs and young by other birds or other agencies; mortality among the birds from disease, enemies, climate, etc.

Make a special study of the egg-collecting operations of the natives, when the practice began and how it has been conducted; years in which eggs have been gathered; exact dates of cleaning-off trips, number of eggs of each species removed when cleaning off the ground, disposition made of these eggs, and area cleaned off; exact dates of collecting trips, area collected over, number of eggs of each species obtained; whether the disturbance of egg collecting results in any destruction of eggs or young by the birds themselves; association of different species on nesting ground; how the nests of different species are distributed or grouped.

While it is desired that you give attention to all phases of the bird life of Walrus Island, the primary object of your investigations will be the securing of knowledge as to the actual conditions obtaining on that island, including the effects of egging operations by the natives, in order that regulations may be provided which will adequately protect the bird rookeries from serious depletion.

The instructions for the study of Walrus Island should be applied, in so far as they may be applicable, to each of the other islands.

It is understood that the natives of St. George Island utilize to some extent the eggs of birds nesting on that island. This practice should receive the same study and consideration as is given to Walrus Island, to the end that the bird rookeries may continue to yield a supply of eggs to be used as food by the natives without any serious diminution in the number of birds.

The relation of the foxes to the bird life of the island should be considered; extent to which the foxes prey upon the adult birds, the young, or their eggs; possible source of food supply for natives and foxes without serious injury to the birds.

All questions of economic or natural history interest concerning the birds of St. Paul Island should receive similar attention, including their utilization as food for the natives and for the foxes to the maximum extent consistent with their proper conservation.

Insects.—List the species of insects found on the islands, and make a study of the life history of each, including abundance, distribution, breeding, and feeding habits, relation to man, to fur seals, to foxes, to other animals, and to plants. Pay special attention to those species whose habits constitute them factors in the life of the fur seal, blue fox, or man; also to those species not originally native to the islands but which have been introduced there by man. If mosquitoes or flies of objectionable species or other pestivorous insects are present, what can be done toward their exter-

mination. Species injurious to useful plants or other vegetation should receive special consideration.

Fishes.—Species found on or about the islands within a radius ordinarily accessible to the natives; the abundance, distribution, habits, and food value of each. Make special study of those species which are or may become of value as food considering methods of capture, curing, or preserving for future use, best methods of cooking, etc. Consider the possibility of introducing useful fishes into the lakes and lagoons of the islands; also of developing and establishing regular fisheries for cod, halibut, or other food fishes.

Mollusks, crustaceans, etc.—Species found on or about the islands; the abundance, distribution, habits, and possible value of each; to what extent, if any, used as food by natives, and can its use be increased; as food for other animals, etc.; methods of capture, utilization, etc.; can utilization be increased and methods of capture, cooking, etc., be improved. Among animals that should receive special consideration are the edible species of mollusks, crustaceans, sea urchins, etc.

Plants.—Terrestrial and aquatic; the species, their abundance, distribution, habits, and uses of each; time of first appearance in spring, flowering and putting forth of leaves, fertilization, relation to insects, ripening of seeds, dying in fall. Pay special attention to those species which are, or may be, used by man as food or in any other useful way, as textile material, fuel, etc. Possibility of increasing supply of useful plants, of introducing others, of cultivation of garden and other plants, as potatoes, lettuce, radishes, onions, berries, etc.; of utilizing any of the species of seaweeds or algæ.

INTRODUCTION OF USEFUL ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

1. *Reindeer.*—The introduction of the reindeer has often been proposed. This question should be carefully investigated and recommendations submitted.

2. *Sheep.*—The possibility and practicability of permanently maintaining a flock of sheep on each island should be considered.

3. *Poultry.*—The same as to poultry. Inquiries regarding sheep, poultry, and other domestic animals in other northern latitudes or similar climatic conditions will prove helpful in determining the varieties or breeds to select, where to obtain stock, and how to care for them.

4. *Muskrat.*—Practicability of establishing muskrat colonies in the lakes of the islands.

5. *Mussels, crawfish, mink, otter, water lilies, etc.*—The fresh-water lakes may supply suitable surroundings for some or all of these species.

In short, the bureau desires to be fully informed as to the native species of animals and plants now utilized in any way on the islands, the manner of their utilization, whether and how their production may be increased and their use encouraged, and that investigation and experimentation in connection therewith may be carried on to the end that the natural resources of the islands may be utilized to the fullest extent, and that the desirability of the introduction of other animals and plants and their cultivation be carefully investigated and undertaken, to the end that the variety and quantity of natural food produced on the islands may be increased to the comfort and general betterment of the natives.

Artificial rearing of fur seals.—The two fur-seal pups which were brought to Washington last January have been weighed on the 20th of each month.

The following are the weights:

Date of weighing.	Weight in pounds.	
	Male.	Female.
Jan. 20	28	19½
Feb. 20	35½	24¾
Mar. 20	32½	25
Apr. 20	37	24
May 20	30½	21½
June 20	36	26
July 20	41	31¾

From this it may be seen that, while the growth has not been uniform, the male has increased in weight 46⅜ per cent and the female 62$\frac{32}{50}$ per cent since January 20.

Although these pups have been kept constantly in fresh water, the temperature of which has for several months been much warmer than normal for fur seals (the maxi-

mum water temperature often going as high as 83°), they appear to be in excellent health. They do not seem to be distressed in the least from presence in fresh water or on account of temperature.

The experiment has proved so satisfactory thus far that the bureau feels quite hopeful that important economic results may be attained. It is therefore desired that the experiment be conducted on a much larger scale.

You will endeavor, therefore, to secure a considerable number of pups this season for experimental purposes. Select as largely as possible from among the motherless pups. Among the possible experiments the following are suggested: (1) Corral and retain in lagoons, lakes, or other inclosures on St. Paul and St. George as large a number as practicable. (2) Bring to Washington as many as can be conveniently handed, say, at least a dozen. It is desired to experiment with two or more at the National Zoological Park, a similar number at the New York Aquarium, at Woods Hole, at the bureau here in Washington, and perhaps at one or two other places.

It is not known here just what arrangements can be made for bringing the pups down from the islands. One of the bureau's cars will be in the State of Washington during October doing fish-distribution work, and it is intended to use this car in bringing the pups from the west coast to Washington, D. C. You should endeavor to have the pups leave the islands at as late a date as possible, and it is hoped you may be able to arrange with one of the revenue cutters to receive the pups and bring them to Seattle or San Francisco, preferably to the former, where they will be received by the bureau's representative for shipment east on the bureau's car. Should it be impracticable to bring the pups down from the islands on a revenue cutter or any other vessel late in the fall, other means should be discovered. The possibility of bringing them down on the *Homer* should be considered. If they should come on the *Homer* arrangements can be made with the park commissioners and Prof. Trevor Kincaid at Seattle for their reception, retention, and care until the bureau's car can receive them. If it is impracticable to land them at Seattle, similar arrangements can doubtless be made with the park commissioners at San Francisco. It is desired, however, that they be landed at Seattle if possible. A letter has been addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting that, if possible, instructions be issued to one of the revenue cutters to receive at St. Paul and bring to Seattle 12 to 20 pups. The decision of the Treasury Department will be communicated to you if possible; if not, you will proceed in accordance with the exigencies of the case.

UNCINARIA AND OTHER PARASITES.

All parasites affecting any of the animals of the island should be studied; their origin, abundance, hosts, life history, effect on host, etc. Give special attention to the *uncinaria*.

NATURAL-HISTORY SPECIMENS.

It is desired that ample museum material fully illustrative of the natural history and geology of the islands be collected, carefully prepared, and preserved for forwarding to Washington. A duplicate series of specimens should be retained on the islands for educational and study purposes.

METEOROLOGY.

Meteorological phenomena should be regularly observed and carefully recorded.

Temperature.—Record 3 times daily (6 a. m., 12 m., and 6 p. m.); also daily maximum and minimum for air and water.

Winds.—Daily observations as to direction, strength, variability, etc.

Sky.—As to clouds, fogs, sunshine, etc.

Rain.—Times, duration, amount; conditions under which occurs, as regards direction and force of wind, temperature, etc.

Snow.—Times, duration, amount; conditions of wind, temperature, etc., under which each fall of snow occurs.

Frost.—First in fall, last in spring, etc.

Fog.—Times, duration, prevailing conditions, etc.

Ice.—When first appears on lakes, lagoons, etc., and about islands; ice pack about islands, etc.

Electrical phenomena.—When, character, etc.

All other meteorological phenomena noted should be carefully observed and recorded.

While all these natural-history, educational, and scientific matters are placed with the naturalist, you and the assistant agents, doctors, teachers, and all others will cooperate with the naturalist in every proper way to the end that the purpose

of these instructions may be realized. Much can doubtless be accomplished by interesting the natives in these questions and securing among them voluntary assistants as observers, collectors, etc.

Duplicate copies of these instructions have been furnished direct to Dr. Hahn and Dr. Chichester in order that they may have them for consideration while en route to the islands. Dr. Hahn will forward through you a report next spring as to what has been accomplished to date with the various investigations.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP, *Acting Commissioner.*

Approved.

BENJ. S. CABLE, *Acting Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 27, 1910.

MR. HARRY D. CHICHESTER,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Inclosed are communications addressed to Mr. Walter I. Lembkey relative to the duties of employees on the seal islands and their assignments. You are directed to read these instructions and deliver them to Mr. Lembkey.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am sending herewith a copy of the fur-seal hearings of March 9 and 10, 1904. The marked passages will interest you; indeed it is all interesting reading. Note how Elliott beats about the bush, dealing in generalities, abuse, and falsehood.

Sincerely,

BARTON W. EVERMANN.

JULY 28, 1910.

NOTE.—See Fur-Seals of Alaska Hearings before the Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session.

The passages marked appear on pages 13, 20, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51.

RISING SUN, IND., *July 28, 1910.*

DEAR DR. EVERMANN: I reached here yesterday evening and have arranged my routing with the local ticket agent. I shall reach San Francisco over the Overland Limited on August 4. That should give me time to confer with Dr. Chichester and Mr. Clark. Can you give me Chichester's hotel address?

Your memoranda reached me at South Bend. We had a misunderstanding in regard to the train, as I reached the station about 7.30 and left at 7.55.

Yours, very truly,

WALTER L. HAHN.

[Copy.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 28, 1910.

Dr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

DEAR DR. CHICHESTER: In the hearings before the Committee of Ways and Means, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session, March 9 and 10, 1904, page 13, Henry W. Elliott states that he was never an employee of the Alaska Commercial Co. I have a distinct recollection of having seen in Mr. Lembkey's possession a letter from that company or some one stating that Elliott was at one time an employee of that company. Can you tell me the facts in the case? Who wrote the letter and where can it be found? Write me immediately all the information that you can on this subject.

Respectfully,

BARTON W. EVERMANN.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., August 1, 1910.

Dr. BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28th ultimo, requesting information concerning Henry W. Elliott's connection with the Alaska Commercial Co.

In a hearing before the Secretary of the Treasury, the date of which I can not recall, Elliott admitted that he had been employed by the Alaska Commercial Co. A typewritten copy of a stenographic report of this hearing was on file in our office, but early in June, at the commissioner's request, I turned it over to him, together with a marked copy of Elliott's denial of his employment by the Alaska Commercial Co., in the hearing before the Ways and Means, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session, March 9–10, 1904. This report must either be in the commissioner's desk or in the Secretary's office.

In a hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, February, 1907, Chas. J. Faulkner, attorney for the North American Commercial Co., brought out the fact that Elliott had been an employee of the Alaska Commercial Co. A copy of the report of this hearing would show the whole thing. In the Fur Trade Review's Washinton letter, March, 1907, there is a report of above hearing in which Elliott admits his connection with the company.

This I telegraphed the acting commissioner July 29 in response to his telegram of the same date.

Some years ago Mr. Lembkey prepared a brief showing Elliott's connection with the Alaska Commercial Co., his lobbying, and his being in correspondence with the British Government at the time he published his report, which the United States Government was trying to suppress, and the publication of which did us so much damage at Paris.

This brief was in the seal files, but I am sure was sent to the Secretary's office, together with all the other Elliott matter.

I have practically finished the purchasing of the supplies and begin checking the bills to-morrow. Will have the ship ready for sea Saturday, August 6, at 1 o'clock, and will sail at that time, unless otherwise ordered.

Respectfully, H. D. CHICHESTER.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 29, 1910.

Hon. BENJAMIN S. CABLE,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith copy of a letter, dated July 5, from Mr. Lembkey, which it is believed you will be interested in seeing.

Respectfully, I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

OFFICE OF AGENT SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 5, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: The *Homer* arrived at St. George on June 28, and, after discharging her cargo for that island, left the same night for St. Paul. Arriving at the latter island June 29 at daybreak, the work of discharging cargo began at 5 a. m. and continued during the 29th and 30th and the early morning of July 1, when the ship was discharged, and left for Dutch Harbor at 8 a. m. to take on a cargo of coal for natives' use. She will return here about July 12, and will then take on the company's employees and proceed to San Francisco.

Because of head winds, the *Homer* was 13 days and 4 hours in making the passage from San Francisco to Dutch Harbor, instead of the 12 days estimated. Since then, however, she has caught up with her schedule, and it is believed will gain somewhat on it, although everything depends upon the weather at the time of the vessel's discharging at the islands.

Upon my arrival, I found that considerable anxiety existed among the natives and others as to the time of arrival of the supply ship and the arrangements which would be made for the conduct of business on the islands. Information had been received from the cutter officers of the change of conditions, but nothing as to what efforts were being put forth by the department for assuming charge of practical affairs. This anxiety was heightened by the fact that the supply of some articles on St. Paul had been consumed, and it had become necessary, in the early part of June, to obtain by the *Manning*, from Dutch Harbor, a quantity of flour, biscuits, salt beef, and canned vegetables for natives' consumption. They had also received the impression that the supply ship would not arrive before August, and that they would be obliged to labor for the Government without any compensation other than clothing and a ration of food.

It was my first effort to remove these impressions and establish relations of confidence with the natives. In fact, the arrival of a ship's load of supplies and a gunny sack containing about 150 pounds of coin operated automatically to remove the greater portion of this uncertainty. In addition, I had conferences with individual natives and with the assembled communities of both islands, explaining the changes which occurred during the past winter and assuring them that it is the intention of the department to better the condition of the natives in every manner possible. All of these have had the effect of reassuring the natives and removing uncertainty. The continuance of cash payments for sundry labor, the increase in the rate of payment for sealskins, and the publication of the rate at which merchandise will be sold to them from the store were received with satisfaction.

The cooperation of the natives during the sealing season is vitally essential to conducting the business at its greatest efficiency. Without this cooperation it would be an easy matter to fail to secure several thousands of skins during a season or to have "errors" occur in the curing of skins which could never be traced to any individual nor charged successfully to deliberate intention. It is necessary, therefore, to be assured of the good will of the people, and to gain and retain this will be a matter of constant thought.

To state that this has been attained is no distortion of fact. On June 30, from 5 a. m. to 10 p. m., the natives of St. Paul discharged 165 tons of coal, dead weight, from the *Homer*—the greatest amount of merchandise ever landed on the islands on one day. The previous record was 150 tons landed from the *Lakme* nearly 20 years ago. As regards "branding" and sealing, under the able direction of Mr. Judge the natives are going at it as if they were working on shares.

Having received no recent instructions previous to my arrival, Agent Judge on St. Paul had "branded" 337 2-year-olds, in addition to several hundreds of 3-year-olds. The remainder of the 3-year-olds to be marked under my instructions have been secured since. The details of the branding on St. Paul follow:

Date.	Rookeries.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.
June 17	Reef	46	77	.....	.....
27	Zapadni	82	56	.....	.....
28	Reef and Gorbatch	209	146	14	5
July 2	Northeast Point	.....	246	.....	.....
4	Reef	.....	191	.....	.....
5	Zapadni	.....	91	.....	.....
	Total	337	807	14	5

No word from St. George has been received since my departure from that island, but it is believed that the St. George quota of 200 3-year-olds has been secured by this time.

Regarding killable seals, I will say that the ice remained in the sea until such a late date and the spring has been so backward that bachelors are not arriving in their usual numbers. On the date of my arrival 675 skins were in the salt house at St. George and 1,573 on St. Paul. From the latter, however, 664 have been delivered to the late lessee to complete its quota for 1909, as authorized by a letter from the bureau, but we have more than made up this number by

skins secured from recent drives. Notwithstanding the present unfavorable aspect, I feel sure that at least 10,000 skins can be secured during the season, and hope that this minimum number can be exceeded.

Reports of the breeding rookeries indicate that more breeding bulls are present than on this date last year, and that, with a decreasing number of cows, many of these bulls will be idle. Further reservations of males should be curtailed, as more than enough are present now.

The Japanese fleet is active, as usual. On July 4, 14 schooners were in sight off St. Paul Island. None have approached close to land and no violations of law have been noted. A heavy native guard is maintained on Northeast Point.

Since my arrival one cutter has been on duty at the two islands, dividing its time between them. Because of the curtailing of the number of patrol vessels this year from 4 to 3, both extremities of this island are not under surveillance by cutters as heretofore and greater opportunity is given the sealing fleet for coming close to shore, which no shore guard can prevent.

The property of the company was formally delivered to the Government on July 1. Since that time the company's employees have been taking new inventories as of that date. During the last winter the entire village was painted by the company and everything placed in first-class condition in anticipation of a possible sale of the property to a new lessee.

In case the bureau does not adopt my recommendation that Mr. Proctor be placed in charge on St. George during the ensuing winter, I have designated Agent Clark to remain a second year. Of all the assistant agents, he alone has not been called upon to remain two years in succession since 1898. He is, however, very desirous of returning this year, and I trust the recommendation which I have made involving Mr. Proctor be adopted.

As already stated, I should be informed at the earliest practicable date of the disposition to be made of sealskins to be landed in San Francisco from the *Homer* in September. I probably will have opportunity of reporting to the department by wireless the number of skins to be shipped.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, August 1, 1910.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent Fur-Seal Service, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 5th ultimo, giving a summary of the movements of the *Homer* and of the work done on the seal islands from your arrival there on June 28 up to the date of writing. The letter is very interesting, and the bureau appreciates your thoughtfulness in giving the valuable information therein contained.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

JULY 29, 1910.

CHICHESTER,
North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal.:

Inform bureau where can find Elliott's admission he was once employee of Alaska Commercial Co. Full information desired. Wire.

DUNLAP.

[Copy—original too faint for satisfactory reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 30, 1910.

Hon. BENJAMIN S. CABLE,
Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose copy of a telegram received from Mr. Chichester in reply to an inquiry from this office relative to Mr. Elliott's connection with the Alaska Commercial Co. It is possible that the stenographic report of the hearing before the Secretary of the Treasury is amongst the Elliott papers on file at the department, or else in the Secretary's office. The bureau has no copy of the hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, February, 1907, and it is requested that steps be taken to obtain one, if practicable. The bureau will endeavor to obtain a copy of the Fur Trade Review of March, 1907. Do you deem it advisable to consult with Senator Faulkner?

Respectfully, (Signed) I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., —— *29.*

DUNLAP,
Bureau Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Elliott's admission his employment by Alaska Commercial Co. is in a hearing before Secretary Treasury. Stenographic report of same I turned over to commissioner early part June; now probably in Secretary's office. Consult Chas. J. Faulkner, Kellog Building. He brought out Elliott's connection in hearing before House Ways and Means Committee February, 1907; also see Washington letter Fur Trade Review, March, 1907.

CHICHESTER.

JULY 30, 1910.

WALTER L. HAHN,
Bascom, Ind., via Aurora:

Inquire for Chichester at North American Commercial Co., Mills Building, San Francisco. Instructions mailed you that address.

DUNLAP.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 30, 1910.

Dr. WALTER L. HAHN,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: There are inclosed you herewith two copies of a letter of instructions sent to Mr. Walter I. Lembkey, chief agent, fur-seal service, one copy for your use and the other for Dr. Chichester. These copies are sent direct to you and Dr. Chichester in order that they may be studied and considered while en route to the seal islands.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

Original will follow early next week for Mr. Lembkey in Dr. Chichester's care.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, August 1, 1910.

Mr. H. D. CHICHESTER,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Herewith is a signed and approved copy of Mr. Lembkey's instructions, dated July 27 and supplementary to those of May 9, 1910. You will please hand this to Mr. Lembkey. Copies have been already sent to you and Dr. Hahn.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

AUGUST 1, 1910.

CHICHESTER,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Approved copy of instructions for Lembkey mailed to you to-day care Commercial Co. Wait for it.

DUNLAP, *Acting Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., August 6, 1910.

COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I arrived here at 8.30 a. m. July 27, and immediately began purchasing the supplies called for by the requisition sent down by Mr. Lembkey. Accompanying the requisition was a note from Mr. Lembkey, asking that $5,000 be reserved from the native appropriation of 1911 for the purchase of native coal next year. As he had already expended over $13,000

from this appropriation, I have charged all the goods bought for the second trip against the special appropriation.

The amount is as follows:

Merchandise	$16,258.80
Coal for *Homer*	2,019.55
Labor, etc	484.17
Total	18,762.52

The Alaska Commerical Co. made application for permission to ship on steamer *Homer* 30 tons of hay to Unalaska, to be used in feeding live cattle to be furnished the Revenue-Cutter Service. As there was sufficient space available, I agreed to take the hay. The rate is $15 per ton.

As I reported by wire, I have secured the services of Dr. Norman D. Morgan to relieve Dr. Mills on St. Paul, and a Chinese cook for St. George—name, Jee Woy.

I have granted permission to a native of Unalaska to take passage on the *Homer* for that place, the native paying for subsistence only.

If the department is in receipt of any information as to the number of skins taken on the island this year, or as soon as such information is received, I would respectfully suggest that the North American Commercial Co. be instructed to secure the number of barrels necessary for their shipment, allowing 28 bundles of skins to a barrel, and have them sent to Long Wharf, Oakland, and also obtain permission from the railroad company to allow the *Homer* to lie at that wharf and unload and pack the skins. If this is not done before the arrival of the steamer, there may be a delay of several days. Mr. Davis, secretary of the North American Commercial Co., has advised me that if the department so desires he will make all necessary arrangements. The price of barrels is $2.25 each, which includes cooperage.

In purchasing the merchandise for this trip of the *Homer* I was not able to secure bids by reason of the short time at my disposal and the great amount of work involved; but with few exceptions the prices I obtained were practically the same as those secured by Mr. Lembkey in the spring, the exceptions being on certain foodstuffs, the prices of which have advanced greatly since Mr. Lembkey purchased.

In order to secure the benefit of the cash discount allowed on many of the bills, it will be necessary to make a settlement as speedily as possible.

I am greatly indebted to the North American Commercial Co. for much assistance rendered me and for the use of their office. It is only by means of their aid and experience that I was able to get the ship loaded and ready for sea to-day.

In order to expedite getting about among the merchants, I found it necessary to hire a horse and carriage for three days. I have signed a voucher for $7.50, covering this, and trust the same will be paid.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *August 6, 1910.*

COMMISSIONER FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.:

Homer sailed 1 p. m to-day.

CHICHESTER.

6.11 p. m.

[Telegram.]

U. S. C. "MANNING," *August 5, 1910.*

BOWERS,
Commissioner Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Catch probably 12,000. Arrange for 200 barrels at Frisco to pack skins.

LEMBKEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, August 11, 1910.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to submit a copy of the health card prepared by Assistant Seal Agent Chichester for use on the Pribilof Islands, which it is thought you may be interested in seeing.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP, *Acting Commissioner.*

FUR-SEAL SERVICE, DEPARTMENT COMMERCE AND LABOR.

HEALTH CARD.

——— ISLAND, ALASKA,
Date, ———, 19—.

Physical examination made by ———. Name, ———. Sex, ———. Age, ———. Where born, ———. Date of birth, ———. How born, ———. Breast or bottle fed, ———. Menstruation began, ———. Character of menstruation, ———. Number of pregnancies, ———. Number of children living, ———; dead, ———. Number of abortions, ———. Previous diseases: Evidences of syphilis, gout, rheumatism, ———. Goiter, infectious or other diseases, ———. History above diseases, ———. Present physical condition, ———. Face, ———. Eyes, ———. Palate, ———. Ears, ———. Teeth, ———. Hair, ———. Skin, ———. Complexion, ———. Height, ———. Weight, ———. The patient is ——— nourished. Subcutaneous tissue present in ——— amount. Muscles are ——— and ——— developed. Mucus membranes, ———. Fractures, deformities, scars, bruises, eruptions, growths, description of each, ———. Vision, defects, color blindness, ———. Thorax and lungs: Chest, ———. Sternum, ———. Ribs, ———. Lungs, expansion, ———. Respiratory rate, ———. Findings, ———. Sputum examination, ———. Heart, findings, ———. Radial pulse, ———. Arteriosclerosis, ———. Blood pressure, ———. Varicose veins, ———. Abdominal and digestive organs, findings, ———. Liver, findings, ———. Spleen, findings, ———. Urinary organs, ———. Genital organs, ———. Urinalysis, ———. Nervous system, findings, ———.

[Telegram.]

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *18*.

COMMISSIONER FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.:

Will ship following fur-seal skins: St. Paul, 10,088; St. George, 2,834; total, 12,922.

LEMBKEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, September 1, 1910.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent Fur-Seal Service,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Complying with the recommendation made by Dr. Chichester in his letter of August 6 that the North American Commercial Co. be instructed to secure the number of barrels necessary for the shipment of the sealskins which will be brought down from the islands this fall, you are advised that a request has been made of the North American Commercial Co. to have in readiness 240 barrels for the purpose indicated. This number is based upon your telegraphic advice, stating that the number of skins taken would be 12,922.

The North American Commercial Co. has also been requested to have the barrels delivered at Long Wharf, Oakland, and to make arrangements with the railroad company to allow the *Homer* to lie at that wharf while unloading and packing the skins, and to make all other arrangements necessary to enable you to proceed with the shipment without delay.

It is the commissioner's intention to be in San Francisco when the *Homer* arrives. He will then advise you definitely as to whom the skins will be consigned, route, and all other matters of detail.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, *September 12, 1910.*

To the ACTING SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

Is it possible for me to insure the sealskins from San Francisco to London, to protect the Government from loss? They are worth $500,000 or more.

GEORGE M. BOWERS.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September 13, 1910.*

Hon. GEORGE W. BOWERS,
Palace Hotel, San Francisco, Cal.:

Acting comptroller advises no appropriation to pay premiums on the insurance for sealskins. Moreover, not policy of Government to insure its property.

CHAS. EARL,
Acting Secretary.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *September 16, 1910.*

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith bill of lading, invoices, and specifications of numbers and contents of 228 casks, 12,922 Alaska salted fur sealskins, the total catch of 1910, shipped to your order, notification to be made to Alfred Fraser, New York. The island, San Francisco, and packing counts, 12,922 skins, all agree.

The shipment left here on the night of September 14, in well-ventilated cars, secured to avoid any possibility of heating on the trip overland.

If shipped to England, it would be advisable to instruct whoever handles the consignment in New York to see that the casks are placed in the coolest part of the vessel carrying them.

The Southern Pacific Railroad has been instructed to keep the bureau in Washington advised by telegraph of the progress of the shipment on its way east.

Respectfully,

_____,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

Received, subject to the classifications and tariffs in effect on the date of the receipt by the carrier of the property described in the original bill of lading, at Oakland Wharf, Cal., September 14, 1910, from Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of Fisheries, the property described below, in apparent good order, except as noted (contents and condition of contents of packages unknown), marked, consigned, and destined as indicated below, which said company agrees to carry to its usual place of delivery at said destination, if on its road, otherwise to deliver to another carrier on the route to said destination. It is mutually agreed, as to each carrier of all or any of said property over all or any portion of said route to destination, and as to each party at any time interested in all or any of said property, that every service to be performed hereunder shall be subject to all the conditions, whether printed or written, herein contained (including conditions on back hereof), and which are agreed to by the shipper and accepted for himself and his assigns.

The surrender of the original order bill of lading properly indorsed shall be required before the delivery of the property. Inspection of property covered by the bill of lading will not be permitted unless provided by law or unless permission is indorsed on the original bill of lading or given in writing by the shipper.

The rate of freight from Oakland Wharf, Cal., to New York, N. Y., is in cents per 100 pounds.

Consigned to order of Geo. M. Bowers, Commissioner of Fisheries, New York, N. Y.
Notify Alfred Fraser, New York, N. Y.
Route, S. P.–U. P.–R. I.–L. S. M. S.–N. Y. C.

Number packages.	Description of articles and special marks.	Weight (subject to correction).	Class or rate.
76	Casks sealskins. (C., M. & St. P. 202825)	31,600	150
152	Casks sealskins. (C., M. & St. P. 85694)	69,050	150

Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau Fisheries, shipper.
H. C. COLLINS, *Agent.*

Invoice of 228 casks of Alaska salted fur-seal skins, shipped September 14, 1910, by the Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of Fisheries, from San Francisco, Cal., to New York, to the order of George M. Bowers, Commissioner of Fisheries.—Consignment No. 1, 1910.

Mark.	Number of skins.	Description.	Value.
Nos. 1 to 228..	12,922	Salted fur-seal skins, at $40	$516,880

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.
ALFRED FRASER, *New York.*

Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of Fisheries, packing account of 228 casks sealskins, consignment No. 1, 1910.

Cask No.	Number of skins.	Cask No.	Number of skins.	Cask No.	Number of skins.	Cask No.	Number of skins.	Cask No.	Number of skins.
1	56	51	56	101	54	151	56	190	58
2	56	52	56	102	56	152	56	191	58
3	56	53	54	103	56	153	56	192	58
4	56	54	56	104	56	154	58	193	56
5	56	55	56	105	56	155	58	194	58
6	54	56	56	106	58	156	58	195	58
7	54	57	56	107	58	157	58	196	56
8	56	58	58	108	58	158	58	197	58
9	58	59	56	109	56	159	58	198	56
10	56	60	54	110	58	160	56	199	60
11	56	61	56	111	58	161	56	200	56
12	56	62	56	112	56	162	56	201	58
13	54	63	58	113	58	163	58	202	56
14	56	64	56	114	56				
15	56	65	56	115	58		742		746
16	56	66	56	116	58				
17	56	67	56	117	56	164	56	203	56
18	56	68	56	118	58	165	58	204	56
19	56	69	58	119	56	166	58	205	58
20	54	70	58	120	58	167	56	206	56
21	54	71	58	121	58	168	58	207	56
22	54	72	58	122	60	169	58	208	56
23	56	73	52	123	58	170	58	209	58
24	56	74	58	124	58	171	56	210	56
25	52	75	54	125	56	172	58	211	56
						173	58	212	58
	1,386		1,404		1,428	174	58	213	58
						175	56	214	56
26	56	76	54	126	56	176	58	215	58
27	58	77	54	127	58				
28	56	78	56	128	58		746		738
29	60	79	56	129	56				
30	56	80	56	130	58	177	56	216	56
31	56	81	56	131	58	178	58	217	56
32	52	82	54	132	58	179	56	218	58
33	56	83	58	133	56	180	58	219	56
34	56	84	56	134	56	181	58	220	58
35	56	85	56	135	58	182	58	221	56
36	52	86	58	136	58	183	60	222	58
37	58	87	56	137	58	184	58	223	58
38	58	88	58	138	56	185	60	224	50
39	56	89	58	139	58	186	58	225	54
40	60	90	58	140	58	187	56	226	54
41	60	91	56	141	56	188	56	227	52
42	56	92	58	142	60	189	58	228	56
43	56	93	56	143	60				
44	56	94	56	144	56		750		722
45	58	95	56	145	58				
46	56	96	56	146	58				
47	54	97	58	147	58				
48	56	98	56	148	58				
49	58	99	56	149	58				
50	56	100	56	150	58				
	1,412		1,408		1,440				

Recapitulation.

	Skins.
Casks 1 to 25	1,386
Casks 26 to 50	1,412
Casks 51 to 75	1,404
Casks 76 to 100	1,408
Casks 101 to 125	1,428
Casks 126 to 150	1,440
Casks 151 to 163	742
Casks 164 to 176	746
Casks 177 to 189	750
Casks 190 to 202	746
Casks 203 to 215	738
Casks 216 to 228	722
Total	12,922

The island, San Francisco customhouse, and packing counts (12,922) all agree.

Cask.	Skins.	Weight.	Cask.	Skins.	Weight.	Cask.	Skins.	Weight.
1	56	465	77	54	462	153	56	445
2	56	482	78	56	464	154	58	445
3	56	455	79	56	452	155	58	435
4	56	472	80	56	445	156	58	465
5	56	475	81	56	447	157	58	459
6	54	457	82	54	470	158	58	447
7	54	486	83	58	460	159	58	435
8	56	475	84	56	475	160	56	422
9	58	460	85	56	439	161	56	424
10	56	445	86	58	435	162	56	412
11	56	460	87	56	476	163	58	437
12	56	447	88	58	442	164	56	440
13	54	462	89	58	445	165	58	442
14	56	435	90	58	440	166	58	439
15	56	458	91	56	446	167	56	430
16	56	440	92	58	431	168	58	435
17	56	435	93	56	435	169	58	435
18	56	473	94	56	456	170	58	437
19	56	425	95	56	440	171	56	441
20	54	452	96	56	440	172	58	446
21	54	476	97	58	437	173	58	447
22	54	450	98	56	440	174	58	460
23	56	433	99	56	442	175	56	445
24	56	470	100	56	458	176	58	445
25	52	442	101	54	460	177	56	432
26	56	430	102	56	441	178	58	438
27	58	465	103	56	427	179	56	425
28	56	430	104	56	436	180	58	433
29	60	462	105	56	435	181	58	445
30	56	433	106	58	435	182	58	433
31	56	475	107	58	440	183	60	440
32	52	463	108	58	461	184	58	450
33	56	435	109	56	430	185	60	458
34	56	438	110	58	455	186	58	432
35	56	463	111	58	456	187	56	440
36	52	463	112	56	445	188	56	430
37	58	444	113	58	437	189	58	466
38	58	448	114	56	426	190	58	422
39	56	474	115	58	446	191	58	445
40	60	434	116	58	448	192	58	432
41	60	465	117	56	425	193	56	432
42	56	433	118	58	441	194	58	434
43	56	430	119	56	432	195	58	442
44	56	435	120	58	440	196	56	430
45	58	451	121	58	446	197	58	434
46	56	481	122	60	458	198	56	425
47	54	440	123	58	459	199	60	450
48	56	465	124	58	440	200	56	442
49	58	451	125	56	444	201	58	444
50	56	428	126	56	431	202	56	426
51	56	460	127	58	459	203	56	423
52	56	428	128	58	432	204	56	426
53	54	465	129	56	434	205	58	446
54	56	436	130	58	449	206	56	434
55	56	442	131	58	441	207	56	422
56	56	443	132	58	446	208	56	430
57	56	447	133	56	450	209	58	444
58	58	432	134	56	451	210	56	428
59	56	430	135	58	435	211	56	427
60	54	470	136	58	438	212	58	443
61	56	473	137	58	440	213	58	443
62	56	430	138	56	438	214	56	441
63	58	462	139	58	451	215	58	463
64	56	450	140	58	445	216	56	436
65	56	431	141	56	448	217	56	428
66	56	436	142	60	448	218	58	431
67	56	447	143	60	465	219	56	426
68	56	421	144	56	425	220	58	429
69	58	436	145	58	458	221	56	440
70	58	456	146	58	445	222	58	441
71	58	444	147	58	435	223	58	436
72	58	456	148	58	440	224	50	439
73	52	460	149	58	440	225	54	450
74	58	444	150	58	440	226	54	460
75	54	446	151	56	432	227	52	442
76	54	467	152	56	435	228	56	483

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., September 17, 1910.

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I inclose herewith a duplicate copy of my letter to you of the 16th instant, which transmitted to you bill of lading, invoices, and specifications of numbers and contents of 228 casks containing sealskins.

I inclose also a memorandum bill of lading and duplicate of the inclosures with my letter of the 16th instant, all of which for use should my letter of the 16th be not delivered to you.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
San Francisco, Cal.:

When do you expect to leave San Francisco for Washington?

DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *19.*

DUNLOP,
Acting Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Yours 19th; probably twenty first or second, but do not know exactly. Will wire upon departure.

LEMBKEY.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, *September 27, 1910.*

Hon. G. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Regarding our confidential talk in San Francisco, you stated that the Secretary has ordered the skins placed in cold storage in New York temporarily, instead of shipping them direct to London, and I venture to call your attention to a few facts that possibly have not suggested themselves.

First. My understanding is that raw skins placed in cold storage are first unwrapped, in order that they may be spread out and properly ventilated. The labor, rack expense, etc., involved in this will be considerable.

Second. If the skins go into cold storage and it is decided later on to ship them to London, they can only be shipped in cold storage, which would probably entail enormous expense. It would be the height of folly to place them in cold storage for a while and then to remove them to the ordinary hold of a vessel for shipment. Meat

taken from cold storage doesn't last long until decomposition sets in, and it is doubtful if hides would either, regardless of the fact that they were salted previously. Should the skins turn up "pinky" at the London sales, criticism, if nothing more, would be our due.

Third. If the Government does not intend to part with its possession until the skins are dressed and dyed, why not have this work done at once and save the expense of cold storage?

Fourth. If it is intended to dye only a few as an experiment, why not hold these few and ship the remainder?

Fifth. It is, of course, evident dressed and dyed skins will not only pay to the Government the additional cost of dressing and dyeing, but also a liberal profit on the additional investment.

Sixth. If profit is the sole object, why not follow the thing to its logical conclusion, and make up and sell the garments at retail so as to get all the profit?

Seventh. Is money available for these purposes? If so, it is likely that the right of the Government to engage in the business can not be successfully questioned; but the wisdom of such a policy will be questioned, and the arguments that can be brought to bear against it are not without weight.

Eighth. I understand that nearly all the Alaska skins, after dressing and dyeing in London, are returned to the United States, and that the regular 35 per cent ad valorem duty is then collected. If this is so, it is worth considering whether the additional profit that might be gained by the Government, the real party in interest, is worth the risks involved, in going into business, wholesale or retail. We are on the right track from the taking of the skins on the islands to their disposal at auction in London, but I fear the expansion necessary to the further handling of the pelts in a business way.

Unless you wish to make it official, I would prefer that this be considered a personal letter, more like a talk we might have in your office. I have written it merely for the purpose of enabling you to present this phase of the matter to the Secretary before he makes his final decision.

I expect to be in Washington in a few days.

Very respectfully, JAMES JUDGE.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, September 29, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER:

Referring to our previous conversation upon the subject, I have the honor to suggest that, in my judgment, the sealskins taken this summer upon the Pribilof Islands should be shipped directly to London, to be sold there in the usual manner—at auction—for the following reasons:

1. An international market offers the chance of obtaining the highest price for furs.

2. The chances of combination to lower the price of sealskins are less in an international market than in one open to buyers from a restricted area only.

3. By arbitrarily changing settled practice, the probability of creating distrust and prejudice among fur dealers which would prompt them to discredit sealskins and thereby lower their value is imminent.

4. By selling sealskins in this country the duty of 20 per cent on nearly $1,000,000 worth of dressed and dyed sealskins, amounting to nearly $200,000, would be lost.

London to-day is the fur market of the world. At a certain time each year buyers from all quarters of the globe gather there to purchase furs at auction. They have been accustomed to do this for years.

By selling the Pribilof Islands skins in London, the Government has the advantage of the world's best market, and of the competition which arises from the presence of buyers from all nations; necessarily the prices obtained under these conditions would be better than if the skins were sold in an unaccustomed market, where the buyers from only a restricted locality might be present and where others might not be able to attend.

Furthermore, it is not wise, in my opinion, to place difficulties in the way of purchasers of Alaska sealskins. On the other hand, it would be good policy to make it as easy as possible for purchasers to bid on these skins. This can be done by having the skins in London when the buyers are there. If, for example, buyers should be required to attend the London sales to purchase all other furs and then to visit New York or Chicago or San Francisco to purchase sealskins only, the chances are that this additional and unusual journey to the sealskin market might create an adverse sentiment against sealskins among fur dealers which would result in forcing down the present high price of sealskins to a low figure.

If the bidding were restricted to those buyers only representing firms in this country, the chances of combination to lower prices would be much easier than in an international market. From what I have heard and read this contingency is not impossible.

This question of antagonizing the retail fur trade is, in my opinion, a vital one. It must not be believed that sealskins always have sold for the price they now command, or anything like it. In 1837 the Russians obtained at Kiachta, China, for the best seal pelts 10 to 15 roubles ($2 to $3) each. They brought little more than that in 1867. In 1870 the average price obtained for sealskins was $5.41. In 1890 the price jumped from $17 to $36 average, went down as low as $15.50 in 1897, and then rose gradually until 1909, when an average price of $40 for each skin was obtained.

The price of skins is affected by conditions that would seem to have little bearing upon it. A war in Manchuria, a famine in India, cholera in Naples, tight money in New York or Paris—all could and some have served to drag down the prices of sealskins at the annual London sales.

If, to such unexpected events as have been mentioned, that occur at irregular intervals, there were to be coupled a steady and vindictive prejudice against the skins in the minds of the retail manufacturers, it is apparent to me that sealskins would fall in value to a price approximating that which they brought in 1870 and previous years.

The price of sealskins is an artificial one, based upon the efforts of large fur dealers, who dictate the mode to maintain the fur as

a standard article of fashion. There is no intrinsic value in sealskins (if I may use the term) as there is in gold and gems. The high price which sealskins now bring was obtained by judicious manipulation of the market in 1871 and following, and the assurance of a steady annual yield. It would be easy enough for dealers to inform their customers, for instance, that "sealskins no longer were in fashion," and thereby discredit the fur and lower the price.

It is therefore vitally essential that no step be taken, more especially at the inception of the Government's management of the business, which would antagonize the retail fur trade and create an adverse sentiment against sealskins. In fact, in my judgment, it would be wise to allay the uncertainty and distrust of the Government's methods which now seem prevalent among the trade, by a public statement from an authoritative source to the effect that our skins will be sold in London as usual; that no particular firm or body of men will be given advantages that the entire trade will not enjoy; and that in all respects this Government will not depart, for the present at least, from the procedure which has attended the disposition of these skins and which has become a settled practice.

Another phase of the question which should be considered is the fact that Great Britain has been willing to adjust the Bering Sea question, but has deferred to the wishes of Canada, which have been adverse to any settlement. The dressing and dyeing of sealskins occurs in London, has supported thousands of British subjects engaged in such work, and forms the basis of Great Britain's desire for a settlement of the pelagic sealing question. It is well to consider whether or not to discontinue the dressing and dyeing of these skins in England and thereby to remove such cause as that country may have for a desire for the settlement of the Bering Sea question in a manner favorable to this Government.

In view of the foregoing, I have respectfully to advise that, for this year, the skins go forward at once to London, to be sold there at auction, as formerly; that careful consideration be given this winter to the question of any change in the methods of disposing of our sealskins, in connection with which the views of the large fur dealers in this country and abroad be obtained; and that a public statement of the policy of this Government, in respect to the disposition of its fur-seal skins now on hand, be made at once to allay uncertainty in the fur trade.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Telegram.]

NEW YORK, *September 30, 1910.*

Hon. CHARLES NAGEL,
Department Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.:

Skins will not arrive here before 4th or 5th of October. Sufficient time for conference.

GEO. M. BOWERS.

2.55 P. M.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 8, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER:

I have the honor to submit a preliminary report of the conduct of affairs on the Pribilof (seal islands), Alaska, Reservation during the season of 1910, as follows:

Leaving Washington on May 17, 1910, under orders from you, and proceeding at once to San Francisco, I chartered the steamship *Homer*, Capt. Adam Donaldson, master, at a cost of $142.50 a day. After consulting with the N. A. C. Co., as directed, to ascertain the quality and quantity of supplies required for the subsistence of the native inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands, I purchased such supplies as then were known to be necessary at a total cost of $23,442.70, including ship's coal.

The *Homer* having been delivered, under the charter, on the 1st day of June, she was sent first to the Western Fuel Co.'s bunkers to coal ship, and thence to the dock of the Cosmos Line, where she received freight. Having received all freight, on June 11 the *Homer* left her dock, arriving at Dutch Harbor June 24. Coaling there, she proceeded to St. George, where she arrived June 27, and discharged all freight. Leaving there June 28, she reached St. Paul June 29. Having discharged all freight for that island, she left there July 1 for Dutch Harbor to load coal for natives' use. After delivering this coal to the islands she left for San Francisco, arriving there July 23.

Taking on another cargo of merchandise, together with coal enough for the round trip to the islands and return, the vessel again left San Francisco on August 6, arriving at Dutch Harbor August 21, at St. George the 23d, and St. Paul the 24th. With the skins aboard she left St. Paul August 28, arriving back at San Francisco September 12.

Number of skins.—For the season of 1910 the following number of fur-seal skins was taken and shipped from the islands:

St. Paul:	
Quota of 1909 (delivered to N. A. C. Co. by direction of department letter dated Jan. 5, 1910)	664
Quota of 1910 (shipped Government account)	10,088
St. George: Quota of 1910	2,834
	13,586

Of these, 664 were shipped on the first trip of the *Homer* to San Francisco, consigned to the North American Commercial Co., and the remainder, 12,922, were sent to San Francisco on the second trip of the *Homer* for Government account.

Bachelors branded.—On St. Paul the following numbers of young male seals were marked for breeders:

Date.	Rookeries.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.
1910.					
June 17	Reef	46	77		
27	Zapadni	82	56		
28	Reef and Gorbatch	209	146	14	5
July 2	Northeast Point		246		
4	Reef		191		
5	Zapadni		91		
	Total	337	807	14	5

On St. George, owing to a misapprehension of orders by Assistant Agent Clark, only 108 3-year-olds were branded, instead of 200, as directed by me. The total number branded on both islands is as follows:

2-year-olds	337
3-year-olds	915
4-year-olds	14
5-year-olds	5
Total	1,271

Count of harems.—On all the islands the following numbers of bulls with harems, and other bulls present at the height of the breeding season, were found:

	Harems.	Idle.	Quitters.	Water bulls.	Hauling ground bulls.
St. Paul	1,059	145	81	55	.....
St. George	259	77	1	.....	47
Sea Lion Rock	[1]55	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total (1910)	1,373	222	82	55	47
Total (1909)	1,399	172	139	13	98

[1] Estimated.

By comparison with 1909 the number of harems has decreased 33, or 1.9 per cent; the number of idle bulls has increased 50, or 29 per cent; the number of stationed bulls with harems and idle has increased 24, or 1.5 per cent. The number of idle bulls amounts to 13 per cent of the whole number of stationed bulls present.

The conditions, therefore, as regards breeding males are the same virtually as last year, except that a slight decrease in harems and a substantial increase in idle bulls are noted.

Counts of pups.—Because of the presence of Japanese schooners in numbers close to the islands, counts of pups on St. Paul were limited to Ketovi rookery, including Amphitheater. On St. George, for the same reason, pups were not counted save on Little East rookery. Those St. Paul counts follow:

St. Paul.	Live.	Dead.	Total.	Number of harems.	Average harem.
Ketovi	1,717	57	1,774	53	33.4
Amphitheater	187	5	192	9	21.3
Total	1,904	62	1,966	62	31.6
Total (1909)	1,915	64	1,979	58	34.1

From the comparison which the foregoing data afford it would appear that the number of breeding cows on this rookery has remained stationary during the period, while the number of harems thereon has increased, thereby lowering the average harem from 34.1 to 31.6.

On St. George the count of Little East disclosed 75 pups in 4 harems.

Japanese fleet.—The Japanese fleet in Bering Sea consisted of 25 vessels boarded by the Revenue-Cutter Service as against 16 last year.

Of these, 2 were seized by the cutters, 1 for violation of the alien fishing laws and 1 for a violation of section 2773, United States Revised Statutes. As a rule these vessels kept outside the 3-mile limit and, so far as known, none landed on the islands for the purpose of killing seals.

Eleven Japanese in three small boats landed on St. Paul Island on July 30 and 31 and were brought to the village. They were quartered there until August 8, when they were placed aboard the *Manning* and taken to Unalaska with four native witnesses. They were tried before the United States Commissioner for landing upon the islands without authority and were found guilty and sentenced to a week's imprisonment. After serving this sentence they were placed aboard a Japanese sealing vessel with their sealing paraphernelia and sent home.

A detailed report of the season's work will be submitted.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

Forwarded.

BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, October 18, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I am sending you to-day by the United States revenue steamer *Bear* 10 fur-seal pups—5 males and 5 females. These pups are all large, healthy ones, taken directly from the rookery this morning and should, under Mr. Thurber's care, reach Seattle alive. He has assured me that he will give them as much attention as his other duties will allow on the voyage down.

A strong effort has been made this fall to care for some of the starving pups, but without success. Despite every effort the pups all died. Dr. Hahn, who had charge of the work will no doubt submit a report concerning the matter.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, October 18, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to report concerning affairs on this island since August 28, 1910:

The health of the natives is at present fairly good, but there has been considerable sickness earlier in the fall. A number of cases of tonsilitis developed during September but has now died out. There were no deaths therefrom.

I understand that a report is current to the effect that measles have broken out among the St. Paul natives. This is not true. We have had no measles here for a number of years.

Since October 28, 1910(?), there has been six deaths. One from cancer, one from gastro-enteritis, and four from tuberculosis. All but two were chronic cases.

There is an ample supply of food, fuel, and clothing on hand to carry through the winter and everything necessary for preparing the station for the winter has been done.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries, in Charge St. Paul Island.

NEW YORK, *November 25, 1910.*

GEORGE M. BOWERS, Esq.,
Commissioner Bureau of Fisheries,
Department of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed I beg to hand you particulars of assortment of the Alaska fur seal received this day from C. M. Lampson & Co., whose valuation of the skins based upon the prices realized for last year's catch is 12,732 skins at 144s. average per skin and 188 skins at 120s. average per skin. The latter I presume are food skins.

I regret to find that the assortment is not quite up to that of last year's catch.

The percentages of the several grades of skins as compared with last year's collection are as follows:

Condition.	Number.	1910	1909
		Per ct.	*Per ct.*
Prime skins	9,999	78.53	83.28
Low skins	1,255	9.86	5.82
Cut skins	821	8.21	6.45
Rubbed skins	621	4.88	3.53
Faulty skins	36	.28	.28
	12,732	100	100

The skins count up two short of the number invoiced, but they will be re-counted on delivery.

I regret to state that the fur trade so far this season is dull, owing in a great measure to the very high cost of all articles, but business will no doubt improve should cold weather set in.

I have reason to believe that the number of pelagic seal taken this year will be about equal to that of last year.

Yours, very truly,

ALFRED FRASER.

Mr. SECRETARY: Not as satisfactory as I should like to have seen this statement. Am home and can not leave to-day.

GEO. M. BOWERS.

NOVEMBER 26, 1910.

LONDON, *November 19, 1910.*

Assortment of Alaska salted fur sealskins for account of United States Government, Department of Commerce and Labor.

[New York Cr. 1/228. 12,922.]

		Lbs.	*ozs.*
78	Smalls	7	15
713	Large pups	7	2
3,032	Middling pups	6	7
4,899	Small pups	5	12
1,266	Extra small pups	5	5
11	Extra extra small pups	4	10
	Low:		
33	Smalls	7	11
135	Large pups	6	9
498	Middling pups	6	1
501	Small pups	5	9
88	Extra small pups	5	0
	Cut:		
10	Smalls	7	2
71	Large pups	6	13
238	Middling pups	6	2
421	Small pups	5	6
81	Extra small pups	4	15
	Rubbed:		
6	Smalls	7	0
55	Large pups	6	14
195	Middling pups	6	6
290	Small pups	5	11
75	Extra small pups	5	3
36	Faulty		
12,732	Average based on December, 1909, prices, 144/=.		
5	Smalls		
21	Large pups		
48	Middling pups		
94	Small pups		
18	Extra small pups		
2	Faulty		
188	Average based on December, 1909, prices, 120/=.		

Subject to recount.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, December 8, 1910.

DR. WALTER L. HAHN,
Naturalist Fur-Seal Service, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: There is inclosed herewith a copy of a letter from Prof. H. Dexler, addressed to Mr. George A. Clark, of Stanford University, also a copy of Mr. Clark's letter transmitting Prof. Dexler's letter to the bureau. These letters explain themselves. You are instructed to secure for shipment to Prof. Dexler the material which he requests. Instead of the young female, however, you will use one or more bachelor seals. It would seem that it would be quite feasible to pack in a barrel the material from at least two young male seals. If you find it convenient to do so, you can prepare that amount of material for him. When properly barreled the package may be addressed to the bureau at this place and sent down on the Government vessel next summer. When it is received at Washington it will be forwarded to Prof. Dexler.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

DECEMBER 16, 1910.

Hon. CHARLES NAGEL,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.:

Conditions considered, have had a remarkably successful sale. Total amount, 89,424 pounds.

GEORGE M. BOWERS.

LONDON, *December 16, 1910.*

Hon. CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have just wired you the total results of the fur-seal-skin sale which has just taken place:

Conditions considered, have had a remarkably successful sale. Total amount, 89,424 pounds.

When we take into consideration the average grading of the skins as compared with last year, there is a loss of only about 3 per cent.

I am inclosing you a copy of the advertisements for the year 1909 as well as for 1910. I think it is well to have these for office reference. I had hoped for a larger amount, but, after conference with the fur dealers of London, was prepared to receive 10 per cent or even 15 per cent less than last year's prices, and I think, as I have said above, that we had a very successful sale.

I leave the latter part of the week for Germany and will go direct to Bad Nauheim. I regret to say that my condition has not improved.

Wishing you and yours a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, I am, with renewed assurances of my highest personal esteem and regard,

Very truly, yours, GEO. M. BOWERS.

LONDON, *December 16, 1910.*

Hon. CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Herewith inclosed you will find catalogues showing the prices received at the auction this day for the fur seals for Alaska and elsewhere, and when we take into consideration the number of skins offered for sale and the climatic as well as financial conditions, I think we have had, as far as our skins are concerned, an exceptionally good sale.

Lot No. 1 sold at a decline of 20 shillings as compared with last year—this gave me the blues. The second lot, 400 large pups, sold at a decline of 9 shillings; this of course was better, but when 6,200 small pups and extra small pups sold at a loss of 1 shilling as compared with last year, this very much improved the situation. Unfortunately, our skins did not grade so well as heretofore. You will observe that the 664 skins of the North American Commercial Co. did not bring prices nearly so good as those gotten by the Govern-

ment. You will further observe that the skins of the northwest coast sold at an average of at least 7½ per cent less as compared with the prices received by us, notwithstanding the fact that the skins of the northwest coast this year graded a little better than usual.

Under the terms of the sale a remittance by C. M. Lampson & Co. will be made on December 30. I shall leave London on the 19th, and my address for the next three weeks will be Hotel Kaiserhof, Bad Nauheim, Germany.

With assurances of personal esteem and regard, believe me,

Sincerely,

GEO. M. BOWERS.

LONDON, *December 19, 1910.*

Hon. CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Herewith inclosed you will find several statements for record in the department, one showing the number of skins sold, the prices realized for each lot, and the average weight of the skins; then another statement showing by whom purchased. I also inclose a report showing the prices received for all other skins sold, with last year's prices, for the purpose of comparison; also a statement issued by C. M. Lampson & Co., as well as two other statements, one by Phillips, Pollitzer & Co., and the other by Blatspiel, Staup & Haycock, the principal London buyers of the Alaskans. These reports will show the situation so far as London and the Continent are concerned. It pleases me to state that the gross proceeds from the sale for the 12,920 skins is £89,624 16s., an advance of £200 more than the amount given in my cablegram. The amounts received, as shown in this report, differ some little from the statement I sent you some days ago, but on the whole our Government gains an additional £200.

Your cablegram of congratulations was greatly appreciated, and I feel much relieved after a hard year's arduous labor. I leave for Berlin to-night, and will proceed from there to Bad Neuheim immediately after Christmas and make a strenuous endeavor to recuperate, or, in other words, to recover my health.

With the compliments of the season, believe me,

Sincerely,

GEO. M. BOWERS.

P. S.—In a personal letter to Mr. Cable I stated I would send him a list of purchasers. This is found in a catalogue which I have marked "Document 4." My address will be Hotel Kaiserhof, Bad Neuheim.

The Fur-Seal Fisheries of Alaska in 1910.[1]

By Walter I. Lembkey, Agent in Charge.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

With the passage of the act of April 21, 1910, the leasing system, which since 1870 had required that the sealing right on the Pribilof Islands be let in 20-year periods to the highest bidder, was abrogated. This new law neither suspended the killing of seals on the islands nor required it to be curtailed, but provided that such killing should be done only by the authority of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor through officers, agents, or employees of that department, the natives to be employed to perform the labor necessary to secure the sealskins and to receive fair compensation for their labor. So also the sealskins taken under the authority and by the persons already mentioned should be sold by the Secretary to the best advantage of the Government.

By this act the Secretary of Commerce and Labor was given authority also to appoint such additional officers, agents, and employees as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the act; to purchase at a fair valuation the plant of the former lessee on the islands; to establish and maintain supply depots on the Pribilof Islands; to provide for the transportation of supplies by the charter of vessels; and, finally, to furnish food, fuel, clothing, and other necessaries of life to the natives of the Pribilof Islands, and to provide for their comfort, maintenance, education, and protection.

INCREASED SCOPE OF AGENTS' DUTY.

This act placed upon the department heavy responsibilities which hitherto had been borne by the lessee. The business of killing seals and curing the skins, the mercantile business with a stock of approximately $40,000 worth of goods, and, in short, all other practical affairs, were required to be actively managed by the department agents, who previously had occupied the virtual status of inspectors of the lessee's operations, in addition to the duty of examination of the seal herd and the administration of the natives' affairs.

The act mentioned had not been approved by the President before those charged with the management of the seal fisheries were giving their attention to the working out of the details under the new conditions. On May 9 the annual instructions to the agent in charge were signed; shortly afterwards $2,000 in cash was advanced to the agent to pay for labor on the islands other than that of killing seals, bonds being given by himself and assistant agents to insure the proper handling of this fund and the faithful performance of duties in general. On May 17 the agent in charge left Washington to begin the preparations for carrying out the requirements of the act of April 21, 1910.

HIRE OF VESSEL AND PURCHASE AND TRANSPORTATION OF SUPPLIES.

On May 21 the agent arrived in San Francisco and on the 26th a charter for the steamer *Homer* at $142.50 per diem was signed, subject to the approval of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

[1] Note.—Uncorrected page proof; not completed until Apr. 15, 1911.

This vessel was delivered under the charter June 1, and was sent first to the coal bunkers to receive her fuel and cargo coal and thence to the covered dock of the Cosmos Line to receive freight.

After the charter of the *Homer* was completed, the purchase of supplies for the natives and the islands in general was next to be taken up. It was found at once that the best prices on the goods required could not be obtained without inviting competitive bids; consequently, with the assistance of the North American Commercial Co., the retiring lessee, which placed its annual requisitions at the department's disposal, schedules of the principal classes of merchandise were prepared in triplicate and presented to three of the largest mercantile firms in the several lines of business, with the request that each submit a bid in writing. All merchandise, with the exception of small articles of miscellaneous classification, was thus purchased from the lowest bidder, after a careful inspection of the goods to determine whether the quality as well as the price was satisfactory.

It was necessary to visit in person the place of business of each firm to solicit these bids; to go again to make purchases, and again to deliver the vouchers in payment of the articles purchased. With this and the attendant clerical work, it is considered that no time was wasted in the preparations incident to the sailing of the supply ship for the islands.

During the period from June 1 to 10 the supplies were purchased and the vessel loaded. On June 11 the *Homer* sailed from San Francisco, arriving at Dutch Harbor June 24. Coaling there, she proceeded to the islands, arriving at St. George June 27 and St. Paul June 29. Having discharged all freight, she left on July 1 for Dutch Harbor to load coal for the natives' use. Delivering this coal on July 7–11, she returned to San Francisco July 23.

Taking on another cargo of merchandise, together with coal enough for the round trip to the islands, the *Homer* again left San Francisco August 6, arriving at Dutch Harbor August 21, at St. George the 23d, and St. Paul the 24th. Having received the sealskins aboard, she left St. Paul August 28 and arrived back at San Francisco September 12.

The sealskins were taken at once to Oakland Long Wharf, where, carefully packed in casks and placed in ventilated freight cars, they left on the night of September 14 for New York and thence were shipped to London to be sold at public auction.

EMPLOYEES.

It has already been stated that during the continuance of the leases of the two companies the Government agents on the two islands were not concerned with the active management of business, but acted with regard to it merely as inspectors. This does not refer to the supervision of the natives' affairs, the management of which was never the subject of concern by any of the lessee's employees. Under these circumstances the services of the four agents were ample to properly oversee the operations of the lessee and to perform such duties as might be required of the Government's representatives. With the taking over, however, of the business which heretofore formed the exclusive concern of the lessee, an increase in the number of the Government employees on the islands became necessary.

Special biological study of the seal herd having been decided upon, a naturalist was appointed for this work, Dr. Harold Heath, of Stanford University, accepting the position until permanent arrangements could be made. The selection of the additional employees and the assignment of their duties were left to the agent. Of the force required, it was considered advisable to retain as many of the employees of the late lessee as could be used, as these men were efficient, skilled in their duties, and required no instruction other than that necessary to acquaint them with new conditions.

During the summer the force of employees on the islands, in addition to the agents and the naturalist, was as follows:

Name.	Position.	Period.	Annual salary.
On St. Paul Island:			
A. H. Proctor	Storekeeper and bookkeeper	Indefinite	$1,800
S. Melovidof	School-teacher	do	1,200
H. C. Mills	Physician	Until fall	1,200
[Chinese]	Cook	Indefinite	720
N. Bogadanof	Stockman	do	300
[Selected natives]	Janitor Government house	do	240
Do	Janitor former company house	do	180
On St. George Island:			
James Murtha	Storekeeper	Until fall	1,200
C. M. Cunningham	Physician	do	1,200
Ned B. Campbell	School-teacher	Indefinite	900
[Chinese]	Cook	Until fall	720
M. Lestenkof	Stockman	Indefinite	300
[Selected natives]	Janitor Government house	do	240
Do	Janitor former company house	do	180

Mr. Proctor assumed his duties with the idea of serving during the winter on St. Paul. Subsequently, by an order of Secretary Nagel, made during the Secretary's visit to St. Paul, Mr. Proctor was transferred to St. George as acting assistant agent, in place of Assistant Agent Clark, who returned to the department. Dr. Mills served only during the summer, returning to his home at his own request. The Chinese cooks on both islands were relieved at their own request by others brought up from San Francisco. Assistant Agents James Judge and E. W. Clark with Agent Lembkey returned to the department on the *Homer*.

Messrs. Murtha and Cunningham served only during the summer, as was contemplated when they were first appointed. Dr. Pedro de Figanière was sent up by the department to take the place of Dr. Cunningham. Mr. Campbell was appointed by the department. All others were appointed provisionally from the force on the islands.

During the ensuing winter the force of employees on the two islands will be as follows:

St. Paul: H. D. Chichester, assistant agent in charge; Walter L. Hahn, naturalist; Norman P. Morgan, physician; S. Melovidof, school-teacher; a Chinese cook; and N. Bogadanof, stockman.

St. George: A. H. Proctor, acting assistant agent; P. de Figanière, physician; Ned B. Campbell, school-teacher; a Chinese cook; and M. Lestenkof, stockman.

The respective assistant agents are performing their usual duties in addition to those heretofore devolving upon the lessee's agents. When it is considered also that the office force of the lessee in San Francisco, with over $20,000 in salaries, has been eliminated, it will be

seen that the island service, while highly efficient, is conducted at a minimum of expenditure. No increase in administrative force has occurred. A bookkeeper, two physicians, and two school-teachers only have been added, in addition to cooks and miscellaneous native help.

TRANSFER OF LESSEE'S PROPERTY.

By a letter dated May 7, 1910, from the Commissioner of Fisheries, the agent was directed to confer with the North American Commercial Co. and if possible to arrive at a fair and just valuation to be placed upon the property of that company on the Pribilof Islands, with a view to purchase by the Government.

Two days after arrival at San Francisco a conference was had with the company, at which a statement of the presumed value to the Government of the company's holdings on the islands was made. After consideration of the question the company several days later agreed to transfer the Pribilof Islands plant at the valuation proposed at the previous conference.

Upon arrival at the islands an inventory as of June 30 was made. Later, the transaction having received the approval of Secretary Nagel, who personally visited the islands and inspected the plant, vouchers were drawn to cover the various amounts shown on the inventory according to the basis of settlement proposed and accepted, and were transmitted to the department for settlement.

A recapitulation of the inventories on the two islands, as taken on June 30, 1910, with a memorandum of the basis of settlement, follows:

ST. PAUL ISLAND.

Company's inventory.		Settlement price.		
Merchandise	$5,154.33	San Francisco invoice cost		$5,154.33
Tools and implements	3,522.83	50 per cent of inventory		1,761.41
Drugs and instruments	816.63	Inventory cost		816.63
Household furniture	2,957.22	25 per cent deducted from inventory		2,217.92
Dispensary furniture	159.97	Do		119.98
Boats and bidarras	3,835.40	Launch	$2,000	
		Boat	400	
		Do	275	
		3 bidarras, at $175 each	525	3,200.00
Telephone line	367.79	Lump sum		90.00
School supplies	276.29	Do		257.00
Company buildings	25,683.45	50 per cent of inventory		12,841.72
Native dwellings	17,269.11	Do		8,634.55
Sea-lion skins	138.00	Inventory cost		138.00
Live stock	967.62	Do		967.62
Salt and twine	1,260.02	Do		1,260.02
Fox skins (traps, etc.)	61.88	Do		61.88
Library	1,012.86	Lump sum		200.00
Wharf ways and derrick	804.63	50 per cent of inventory		402.31
Coal, 66 tons 1,339 pounds, at $20	1,331.97	Same, at $17		1,132.17
Total	65,620.00	Total		39,255.54

ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

Company's inventory.		Settlement price.	
Merchandise	$6,352.03	San Francisco invoice cost	$6,352.00
Coal, 38 tons, at $20	760.00	Same, at $17	646.00
Dispensary	718.97	50 per cent of inventory	359.48
Live-stock account	313.72	Inventory cost	313.72
Groceries, company house mess	227.73	San Francisco invoice cost	227.73
Salt and seal twine	198.10	San Francisco invoice cost after inspection	198.10
Old salt	98.87	Do	98.87
Sea-lion skins	85.71	Inventory cost	85.71
Boats and bidarras	1,215.96	Lump sum	700.00
Company buildings	11,604.04	50 per cent	5,802.02
Derrick and landing (including cars and track)	1,737.23	Do	868.61
House and office furniture	2,043.63	25 per cent deduction	1,532.72
Library	670.64	Lump sum	100.00
Native dwellings	6,646.96	50 per cent	3,323.48
Telephone	297.25	Do	148.62
Tools and implements	1,164.47	Do	582.23
Total	34,135.31	Total	21,339.32

The foregoing lists represent a total valuation for both islands of $60,568.17. Subsequent deductions because of errors in addition, computation, etc., reduced this amount by $26.69. A final settlement was made by the department for $60,541.48 and checks for that amount were transmitted to the company.

With the exception of the buildings, practically everything on the inventory represents new stock, purchased by the company during its lease and not acquired from the former lessee. With regard to the buildings it may be said that, although erected by the former lessee, they have been kept from deterioration by constant repair and could not be replaced for anything approaching the price paid for them by the Government. On St. George the company dwelling house and warehouses were virtually rebuilt by the late lessee, when also several new native dwellings were added. On St. Paul constant repairs were made to all the buildings during the period of the lease, and the buildings not only are habitable but efficient. When it is considered, furthermore, that only 50 per cent of the inventory valuation was paid for these buildings, it may be seen that the price was not excessive

NATIVES' AFFAIRS.

Upon the agents' arrival at the islands considerable anxiety was found to have existed in the minds of the natives and others as to the time of arrival of the supply ship and the arrangements which might be made for the conduct of affairs under the changed conditions. Through the revenue cutters which touched at the islands previous to the arrival of the *Homer* information had been received of the assumption of active management by the Government, but no intimation as to what efforts were being put forth by the department for taking charge of the practical affairs. This anxiety had been heightened by the fact that the supply of some articles of necessity, as food on St. Paul, had been almost consumed. In fact, to provide against an imminent shortage it had become necessary in the early part of June to obtain by the revenue cutter *Manning* a quantity of flour, biscuits, salt beef, and canned vegetables from Dutch Harbor. In addition to this fear of impending famine, the natives had received the impression that they would be obliged to labor for the Govern-

ment without any compensation other than clothing and food, as had been actually the case under the Russian régime.

The agents' first effort, therefore, was to allay these impressions and to establish relations of confidence with the natives, though, as a matter of fact, the arrival of a shipload of supplies and of a gunny sack containing about 150 pounds of coin had the effect automatically of removing the greater portion of this uncertainty. In addition, conferences were had with individual natives and with the assembled communities, in which the changes which had occurred during the past season were explained and assurance was given that the intention of the Government was to improve the present condition of the natives wherever possible rather than to make it less favorable than under the late lessee.

It was necessary specifically to reassure them that cash payments for sundry labor would be continued under the new management. This has been the source of almost all the cash received by the natives, and the loss of it the occasion of their chief anxiety. The assurance of the continuation of these payments in cash, together with the increase in the rate of payment for taking sealskins, and the material reduction in the prices at which merchandise is to be sold to the natives out of the stores on the islands, all had the effect of restoring confidence and obtaining a renewal of the natives' good will.

Supply depot.—Immediately upon the arrival of the *Homer* all hands not entirely occupied with sealing began taking an inventory of merchandise and other property belonging to the company, with a view to its being taken over by the Government, in accordance with instructions contained in the letter to the agent in charge dated May 7, 1910. This inventory was prepared in time to be transmitted on the return of the *Homer* on her first trip.

After completing the inventory the merchandise which arrived on the *Homer* was uncrated and checked with the invoices. The price was marked on the articles at the rate fixed in the instructions of the agent, namely, a flat rate of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent advance over San Francisco wholesale prices. The prices of those articles of merchandise also which were taken over from the company were made to conform to the prices fixed for the new invoices of goods.

The application of this flat rate of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent advance had the result of selling merchandise to the natives at lower prices than ever before in the history of the islands. Because of high market prices in San Francisco at the time the spring requisition was purchased the retail price of butter was increased from 35 cents to 42 cents; flour remained the same, at $1.75 a quarter barrel; lard was raised from 18 cents to 21 cents a pound; rubber boots, from $6 to $6.35 a pair; canned beef from 30 cents to 35 cents each. Some few other articles were sold at the same rate as formerly; all other prices were reduced. A statement of some of these reduced prices follows:

Articles.	Former price.	Present price.	Articles.	Former price.	Present price.
Apples:			Needles	$0.05	2 for $0.05
Canned	$0.25	$0.20	Oil:		
Evaporated	2 for .30	3 for .25	Coal	.40	.26
Apricots, canned	.25	.20	Cottonseed	.35	.25
Arctics:			Onions	.06½	.05
Men's	2.25	1.90	Peaches, canned	.25	.20
Women's	1.50	1.35	Pears, canned	.25	.20
Beans, canned	.20	.15	Peas	.20	.15
Bedspreads	2.25	1.70	Potatoes	.03½	.02½
Beef, salt	.12½	.09	Baking powder	.20	.15
Blackberries, canned	.25	.20	Prunes	.15	3 for .25
Blankets	7.00	5.50	Raisins	.15	3 for .25
Calico	.10	3 for .25	Rice	3 for .25	3 for .20
Candles	.02½	.02	Worcestershire sauce, American	.25	.15
Candy, 2 pounds	.50	.25	Shoes:		
Chimneys, lamp	.15	2 for .15	Babies'	.75	.55
Coffee	.25	.20	Do	1.25	.90
Collars, white	.25	2 for .25	Boys'	3.00	2.00
Corn, canned	.20	.15	Children's	2.50	1.75
Crackers:			Do	2.00	1.40
Soda	.10	3 for .25	Men's	4.00	3.15
Sweet	.20	.15	Misses'	2.50	1.75
Cups and saucers, set	.20	.15	Women's	3.00	2.35
Dress goods	.60	.50	Do	4.50	2.60
Ewers and basins, set	2.00	1.25	Soap	.06½	.05
Gingham	.15	2 for .25	Socks	.50	.45
Gloves, men's, wool	.50	.25	Swiss, dotted	.25	.15
Knives, pocket	.40	.30	Tea	.50	.25
Jams	.25	.20	Tobacco, leaf	.50	.40
Jelly	.25	.20	Tomatoes, canned	.20	.15
Lining, cotton	.15	.12½	Trousers	5.00	4.00
Milk, condensed	.25	.20			

On every weekly order issued a saving of from 75 cents to $1.50 was made by reason of these reduced prices. In addition, the price of coal was reduced from $20 a ton to $12.75 plus a small charge for stevedorage at either end. While no accurate computation has yet been made, it is believed that by reason of the reduced prices of commodities sold the purchasing power of the natives will be increased by several thousands of dollars.

Bank accounts.—When the Alaska Commercial Co. in 1870 began taking seals under its lease, in addition to providing comfortable dwellings for the native inhabitants, it also endeavored to encourage thrift among them by receiving deposits of money from such natives as desired to open savings accounts. On these accounts, which were subject to check at all times, the company paid interest at the rate of 4 per cent on balances found on May 31 of each year. During the period of this company's lease some natives had accumulated accounts of over $2,000 each.

These accounts were taken over by the North American Commercial Co. when it succeeded to the sealing privilege in 1890. While during the 20-year lease of the latter company these funds on deposit became smaller, due to the lessened amounts earned by the natives and to distribution to nonresident heirs upon death of the owner of the account, there still remained a few so-called bank accounts in the hands of the North American Commercial Co. at the time of the expiration of its lease.

When the contract of the North American Commercial Co. expired in 1910 these funds remained on deposit with it, and some action with reference thereto became necessary on the part of the Government, which then took over the active management of the business.

In the instructions dated May 9, 1910, it was directed that if the balance on the bank account of any native was small it should be paid

by the company directly to the native; if, however, the native desired, it should be held by the company and deposited in a safe financial institution in San Francisco by the agent in charge as attorney in fact for the benefit of the native owning the account, the interest to be collected annually and paid directly to the native.

Upon arrival at the islands last spring the natives were informed of the situation and told that if they desired their money could be deposited in a bank in San Francisco previously selected, which would pay interest at the rate of 3½ per cent per annum. They all assented to the redepositing of their funds in the manner stated.

Such small accounts as did not exceed $25 were paid to the owner in cash by the company, the accounts of larger amount than that stated were closed by the company's presenting the respective owners with drafts for the several amounts.

Each native who possessed one of these drafts delivered the same to W. I. Lembkey and upon blanks previously provided signed a power of attorney to him authorizing him to deposit the drafts with a bank in San Francisco, to collect the amount of any interest due thereon, and to give receipts for the same.

A list of the accounts and the persons to whom they belong follows:

St. George Island:	
Fevronia Galanin	$40.00
Dimitri Lestenkof	137.00
Michael Lestenkof	240.00
Peter Prokopiof	83.55
Emanuel Zaharof	33.20
Zoya Swetzof	123.00
Mary Galanin	245.00
Michael Shane	63.55
Mary Philamonof	90.05
Total	1,055.35
St. Paul Island:	
Alexander Merculief	170.00
Nekita Hopof	50.00
Agrafina Bogadanof	161.10
Marina Stepetin	40.00
Apollon Bourdukofsky	203.30
Parascovia Kozlof	150.00
St. Paul Island—Continued.	
Peter Bourdukofsky	$130.00
Elizabeth Rookavishnikof	40.00
Agrifina Fratis	71.00
Agrifina S. Pankof	285.00
Peter Oustigof	140.00
Alexander Melokidof	235.00
Julia B. Krukof	170.00
Simeon Fratis	71.00
Akalina Fratis	426.00
Alexai Emanof	230.00
Tekan Volkof	966.00
Martha Fratis	71.00
John Hansen	370.00
Oulianna Fratis	71.00
Total	4,050.40
Grand total	5,105.75

The St. Paul drafts were deposited to the credit of W. I. Lembkey, trustee for the various natives. Separate accounts were opened with each fund and pass books provided, to be delivered to each native owning the account. In cases where the money was owned by a minor child, the account was opened in the name of its natural guardian—either one of its parents, or if an orphan, the person with whom it resides—with Agent Lembkey as trustee for the guardian.

Upon taking the St. George drafts to the bank it was discovered that by an oversight they had not been indorsed by the persons in whose favor they were drawn. Unfortunately, therefore, they could not be deposited. An arrangement was made with the North American Commercial Co., however, whereby the amount of these St. George drafts, $1,055.35, was deposited by the company to protect the drafts, which it will be necessary to take back to St. George Island for proper indorsement. After being so indorsed they will be paid by the bank and savings accounts opened with each of the persons named, in the same manner as the drafts from St. Paul.

The interest on these accounts will be collected annually and paid to the proper persons. The receipts for money so paid will be submitted with the annual report.

Resources of natives.—During the summer of 1910, from taking seals and the previous winter from trapping foxes on St. George, the natives of the islands earned the following amounts, to be applied to their support:

St. George:	
203 blue foxes, at $5; 9 white, at $1	$1,024
2,834 sealskins, at $1	2,834
St. Paul:	
664 sealskins, at 75 cents	498
10,088 sealskins, at $1	10,088
Total	14,444

As the fox skins were delivered to the North American Commercial Co., that company paid directly to the agent on St. George for the natives the amount of $1,024, due the natives on that account. The company also paid in cash to the agent on St. Paul the $498 due the natives from the 664 sealskins which the department authorized the company to take to complete its quota of 15,000 for 1909. The amounts of $10,088 earned by the St. Paul natives and $2,834 earned by the St. George natives for taking the sealskins shipped on Government account in 1910 were credited to the natives on the island books. Payments of cash therefrom were not made except of small sums in very rare instances. Each native sealer, however, was allowed to draw supplies against this fund at a fixed rate each week until the cost of such supplies equaled the amount of the native's credit from earnings; after this, supplies to be issued to him directly from the stores in sufficient quantity to support himself and family.

The various statements of the division of natives' earnings are filed in the Bureau of Fisheries at Washington.

Census of inhabitants.—On St. Paul, on June 30, 1910, there were 198 resident natives, composed of 98 males and 100 females, a net increase of 5 over the previous census. During the year 13 births, 1 arrival, and 9 deaths occurred.

On St. George, at the same date in 1910, 91 natives were present, of which 45 were males and 46 females. Six births and 2 deaths occurred during the year, leaving a net increase of 4 in the population.

Detailed censuses are filed in the Bureau of Fisheries at Washington.

MANAGEMENT OF SEAL HERD.

MARKING OF BACHELORS.

The general instructions to the agent, dated May 9, 1910, required that not any 2-year-old bachelors but only 500 3-year-old bachelors should be marked to form the breeding reserve. This was predicated upon the assumption that the 500 3-year-olds so reserved would be over 14 per cent of the whole number of such young males in the herd. Subsequently, by a telegram from the Secretary dated June 6, which, not having been delivered, presumably through the fault of the telegraph company, was repeated June 10, the number of 3-year-old males to be reserved by marking was increased from 500 to 1,000.

These were apportioned between the two islands, by assigning 800 to St. Paul and 200 to St. George, for the reason that there are in round numbers four times as many breeding seals on St. Paul as on St. George. Upon arrival at St. George Island a copy of the annual instructions was given to Assistant Agent Clark, and he was also informed that the quota of bachelors to be reserved on St. George was 200 3-year-olds. As the vessel remained at St. George only a few hours, and as numerous other matters required consideration, it was not possible to put into writing the various explanations of the instructions.

Upon my return to St. George Island two weeks later I was informed by Agent Clark that the quota of marked bachelors had been secured. No statement of the number so marked, however, was made, and at the close of the season among the data received detailing the seasons work on St. George no mention was made of the number of bachelors branded. Upon meeting Agent Clark on the *Homer* after he had left St. George for San Francisco, upon specific inquiry I ascertained for the first time that the instructions were misapprehended by him and that he had sought to brand on St. George only 100 3-year-olds, and did actually brand only 108 of that class of young males. He had not the memoranda showing the dates on which drives were made for this purpose and the number secured from each drive. As the season then had been closed for three weeks it was useless to cause the marking of an additional number to make up the deficiency in the breeding-reserve quota for that island.

On St. Paul, however, more young males were branded than the total number for both islands required by the instructions. Previous to my arrival on that island, on June 29, with the current instructions, Assistant Agent Judge, acting under the instructions for the previous year, had already marked 337 2-year-olds in addition to 279 3-year-olds, 14 4-year-olds, and 5 5-year-olds. After my arrival additional 3-year-olds only were marked to complete the number of that class required for St. Paul. A record of the bachelors marked on St. Paul, showing also dates and rookeries driven from, follows:

Record of bachelors marked on St. Paul Island for breeding purposes, season of 1910.

Date.	Rookery.	Two years.	Three years.	Four years.	Five years.
June 17	Reef	46	77	.....	.....
27	Zapadni	82	56	.....	.....
28	Reef and Gorbatch	209	146	14	5
July 2	Northeast Point	.....	246	.....	.....
4	Reef	.....	191	.....	.....
5	Zapadni	.....	91	.....	.....
	Total	337	807	14	5

The total number of bachelors marked on both islands, therefore, would be as follows: 2-year-olds, 337; 3-year-olds, 915; 4-year-olds, 14; 5-year-olds, 5; total, 1,271.

The report of London trade sales this year shows that 5,006 large pup and middling pup skins (which are accepted to be those of 3-year-old bachelors) appeared in the 1910 catch. Adding to these the 915 reserved 3-year-olds would make a total of 5,921 of that class which we might claim were in the herd in 1910. Of this whole number, the number reserved (915) is over 15 per cent.

Two-year-old males were not required by the current instructions to be reserved, for the reason that the number of 2-year-olds having skins of 5 pounds and under, together with those 2-year-olds which would not appear in the drives at all, of which there are always some, it was believed would be sufficient to supply the necessary number of 3-year-olds in 1911.

STATISTICS OF KILLING.

St. Paul.—From August 9, 1909, to June 17, 1910, 6 drives of seals on St. Paul and 2 on Sea Lion Rock were made to furnish food to the inhabitants of St. Paul. From these, 1,573 skins were obtained, including 1 from a seal found dead at Rocky Point. From July 3 to 31, 29 drives were made on St. Paul for skins, in which 8,683 skins were secured. On August 10, 1910, an additional drive was made to furnish food for the natives during the coming "stagey season," from which 496 skins were secured. From the sources enumerated a total of 10,752 skins were obtained during the season ended August 10, 1910.

St. George.—On St. George during the so-called food-killing season, from August to November, 1909, 18 seals were killed at various dates by the guard at Zapadni; 8 drives also were made, in which 482 seals were killed, filling the quota of 500 for food allowed for that island. During the season for killing for skins, 2,314 skins were secured in 10 drives, 16 were obtained from the seals killed at various times by watchmen for food, and 4 were left in salt from the previous season, a total of 2,334, in addition to the 500 taken during the food-killing season.

SKINS SHIPPED.

St. Paul.—Of the skins taken on St. Paul, 664 were delivered to the North American Commercial Co., under authority of the department's letter of January 5, 1910, to complete that company's quota of 15,000 skins for 1909. The remainder, 10,088 skins, were available for shipment on Government account. While this number supposedly was shipped from St. Paul on the *Homer*, on August 28, word was received in October last from Assistant Agent H. D. Chichester, in charge on St. Paul, that after the departure of the *Homer* with the skins on board a bundle containing 2 sealskins was found wedged under the floor of the skin lighter or bidarra, in which crevice it had become obscured during the shipment of the skins. These two were placed in the salt house to apply on the shipment of the following year. The total number of skins, therefore, shipped from St. Paul in 1910 for Government account was 10,086.

St. George.—On August 23, 1910, the whole number of skins taken on St. George, from the sources enumerated (2,834), were placed on board the *Homer* to be shipped to San Francisco for Government account.

The whole number of skins from both islands, recapitulated from the data already given, is as follows:

From St. Paul:	
By North American Commercial Co	664
By Government	10,086
From St. George, by Government	2,834
Total	13,584

RECORD OF DRIVES.

On St. Paul, during the season of 1910, no record was kept of the seals dismissed from the food drive made on June 6 on Sea Lion Rock, as the configuration of the ground there is such that the seals can not be herded, but escape in every direction upon the landing of the clubbers, who kill such as they can while the seals are running off. So also no record was kept in the drive for "branding" on June 17, from which at the same time 145 seals were killed. The record of dismissals, therefore, begins on July 3, when the drive was made at Northeast Point for "branding," at which, at the same time, the 2-year-old bachelors in the drive, not being required to be marked, were killed.

In the 32 drives made on St. Paul from July 3 to August 10, a total of 12,434 seals appeared, of which 9,179, or 73 per cent, were killed and 3,255 dismissed. Those dismissed consisted of 1,581 small, 825 large, and 849 of those marked for the breeding reserve. This killing was 4 per cent closer than during the lessee's killing season of 1909, when 69 per cent of all seals driven were killed.

Seals killed and seals dismissed from drives on St. Paul Island, season of 1910.

Date.	Rookery.	Killed.	Dismissed.			Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Small.	Large.	Branded.		
July 3	Northeast Point	437	32	67	.....	536	81
4	Reef	331	48	31	.....	410	80
5	Zapadni	166	48	31	.....	245	67
6	Tolstoi and Lukanin	142	6	39	28	215	66
7	Halfway Point	77	2	9	3	91	84
8	Northeast Point	293	37	47	85	462	63
9	Reef and Gorbatch	437	21	28	116	602	72
9	Tolstoi and Lukanin	120	2	17	5	144	83
10	Zapadni	198	10	18	32	258	76
14	Northeast Point	407	16	35	15	473	86
14	Polavina	5	.....	10	.....	15	33
15	Reef and Gorbatch	429	19	9	17	474	90
15	Tolstoi and Lukanin	131	17	8	2	158	82
16	Zapadni	339	77	22	24	462	73
20	Northeast Point	487	132	29	26	674	72
20	Halfway Point	5	.....	.....	1	6	83
21	Reef and Gorbatch	548	56	33	42	679	80
21	Tolstoi and Lukanin	449	53	23	26	551	81
22	Zapadni	346	51	32	32	461	75
25	Northeast Point	465	48	65	38	616	75
25	Halfway Point	18	.....	17	3	38	47
26	Reef and Gorbatch	664	139	30	78	911	72
26	Tolstoi and Lukanin	336	32	35	37	440	76
28	Zapadni	318	55	14	44	431	73
28	Highway Point	12	1	2	1	16	75
29	Northeast Point	589	64	68	23	744	79
30	Reef and Gorbatch	575	86	37	55	753	76
30	Tolstoi and Lukanin	204	29	29	21	283	72
31	Zapadni	155	25	16	26	222	69
Aug. 10	Reef and Gorbatch	496	475	24	69	1,064	46
	Total	9,179	1,581	825	849	12,434	73

Classification of large seals dismissed from drives on St. Paul Island, season of 1910.

Date.	Rookery.	Four years.	Five years.	Six years.	Seven years.	Adult.
July 4	Reef	7	9	9	6	.....
5	Zapadni	12	6	11	2	.....
6	Tolstoi and Lukanin	11	8	11	6	3
7	Halfway Point	1	2	6	.....	.....
8	Northeast Point	10	9	14	14	.....
9	Reef and Gorbatch	8	9	2	9	.....
9	Tolstoi and Lukanin	8	2	.....	7	.....
10	Zapadni	8	5	3	2	.....
14	Northeast Point	12	6	10	7	.....
14	Polavina	2	3	.....	5	.....
15	Reef and Gorbatch	4	2	3	.....	.....
15	Tolstoi and Lukanin	4	2	.....	2	.....
16	Zapadni	10	4	3	3	2
20	Northeast Point	19	5	4	1	.....
20	Halfway Point	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
21	Reef and Gorbatch	2	9	12	10	.....
21	Tolstoi and Lukanin	4	9	4	6	.....
22	Zapadni	16	10	4	2	.....
25	Northeast Point	24	21	18	2	.....
25	Halfway Point	3	4	4	4	2
26	Reef and Gorbatch	10	5	12	3	.....
26	Tolstoi and Lukanin	13	16	5	1	.....
28	Zapadni	8	2	.....	2	2
28	Halfway Point	.....	1	.....	1	.....
29	Northeast Point	17	9	3	5	4
30	Reef and Gorbatch	14	16	4	1	2
30	Tolstoi and Lukanin	7	16	2	4	.....
31	Zapadni	9	4	2	.....	1
Aug. 10	Reef and Gorbatch	12	1	2	6	3
	Total	255	195	148	111	19

On St. George the record of seals driven and dismissed covers the period from June 13 to July 31. In this time 3,065 seals were driven and 2,295 killed, while 240 small, 343 large, and 187 marked seals were released. The number killed represents 74 per cent of the whole number driven, an increase of 11 per cent over the killings of 1909, when 63 per cent of those driven were killed.

Seals killed and seals dismissed from drives on St. George Island, season of 1910.

Date.	Rookery.	Killed.	Dismissed.			Total driven.	Per cent killed.
			Small.	Large.	Branded.		
June 13	East	31	4	38	.....	73	42
23	East and North	138	11	93	.....	242	57
30	.....do	162	16	79	.....	255	63
July 5	East, North, and Staraya Artel.	171	55	30	58	314	54
12	.....do	313	26	14	21	374	83
16	North	258	18	5	5	286	90
21	North and East	376	48	15	27	466	80
26	East, North, and Staraya Artel.	405	42	35	37	519	77
31	.....do	441	20	36	39	536	82
	Total	2,295	240	343	187	3,065	74

Classification of large seals dismissed from drives on St. George Island, season of 1910.

Date.	Rookery.	Four years.	Five years.	Six years.	Seven years.
June 13	East	17	9	9	3
23	East and North	25	43	18	7
30	do	39	7	21	10
July 5	East, North, and Staraya Artel	8	13	6	3
12	do	4	4	6	.....
16	North	4	.....	1	.....
21	North and East	8	5	.....	2
26	East, North, and Staraya Artel	13	6	11	5
31	do	13	11	6	6
	Total	131	98	78	36

It will doubtless be remarked that the percentage of seals killed in 1910 was greater than in the preceding year. The seals killed in 1910 were, however, neither larger nor smaller than those taken in 1909, but conformed at least as closely to the prescribed ages and weights as they did in 1909, the last year of the leasing system. Indeed, when doubt arose, as often it does arise, whether a seal was of the 3-year-old (or killable) age or whether it was of the 4-year-old (or prohibited) age, in 1910 the animal was allowed to escape, whereas in 1909 it would have been killed. In this respect it may be said that the killing in 1910 conformed even more closely to regulations than that of 1909.

Since the animals killed in 1910 were of the same class as those of the preceding year, and since the rejections from the drives were fewer in proportion to those killed, it must be concluded that this condition is due not to closer killing, but to the absence, for some reason, of those animals which are not killable and which when they appear in drives make up the number of "rejected" seals. In other words, the bachelors driven were not culled more closely for killables, but fewer rejectable seals appeared in the drives, thereby making the rejection percentages smaller.

One certain reason for this increased percentage of killed in 1910 is to be found in the lessened number of "branded "or marked bachelors with which to deal during the killing. In previous years 2,000 of these marked bachelors were present during the killing season, while in 1910 only 1,000 of them were marked. Furthermore, this missing thousand would have been composed of 2-year-olds which haul up on the bachelor's hauling grounds much more frequently than do the 3-year-olds. With 1,000 2-year-olds marked for exemption from killing, it would have been certain that from 1,200 to 1,500 more rejections would have occurred during the season, the number of rejections of this class varying somewhat from year to year. On the other hand, rarely does the number of subsequent rejections of the 3-year-olds equal the number of that class actually marked.

Had 1,200 been added to the number of rejections obtained in 1910, the percentage of killed would have been 69, very nearly what it was in the year preceding.

Another presumed cause of the lack of small rejections last year is the probable fact that the smaller seals, i. e., those that had skins under 5 pounds in weight, failed to haul up on land proportionately in the same numbers as hitherto; that is to say, these small seals remained for longer periods in the water than usual. In respect to

this matter we are met with the fact that we are wholly unable to state anything definite concerning the hauling habits of young bachelors. Some are always in the water and on inaccessible hauling grounds, for which reasons no definite idea of the whole number in existence can be obtained. Nevertheless, it is known that the hauling habits of seals vary from year to year; that these habits are altered by circumstances not incident to their natural environment, such as the action and movement of the pelagic fleet; that these bachelors haul in one year in greater numbers proportionately on one island than the other, or on one rookery than on other rookeries; that they return to their normal habits with the disappearance of the cause which forced them to abandon those habits temporarily.

It can be shown that these small seals of 1910, which were yearlings the preceding year, were not killed, either as pups or yearlings. Yearlings are never killed on land except through unavoidable accident, and an analysis of London sales of skins shows that yearlings form but a small fraction of 1 per cent of the pelagic catch. Unless they died from natural causes, of which there is no evidence, they must be in existence somewhere as 2-year-olds. Not having appeared on land during the summer, the natural inference must be that they were in the water and did not haul on land.

That there were in existence small seals which did not haul during the summer might be indicated by the fact that in the killing on August 10 the number of small seals turned away was entirely out of proportion to the usual number occurring in drives during the season. The absence of these small seals during the summer was a matter of remark, and their reappearance at the last drive of the season also was noted with interest.

In treating of this matter it is desired to show that notwithstanding the fact that of seals driven a greater percentage killed appears on the record for this year as compared with last, no smaller seals than usual were killed and not as large seals were taken as previously. The increased percentage is the result, first, of the absence of 2-year-old marked bachelors present in former years, and secondly, to a failure of young nonkillable seals to haul on land in their usual numbers during the summer.

WEIGHTS OF SKINS TAKEN.

Of the 10,752 skins taken on St. Paul, 10,749 were weighed. Of these 70 were under 5 pounds and 48 over 8½ pounds. On St. George, 2,834 skins were weighed, of which 20 were under 5 pounds and 11 over 8½. Of the overweight skins on St. Paul, nearly all were taken in a food killing on Sea Lion Rock, and before weighing were immersed in sea water until they were saturated. In this condition each carried several pounds of water, increasing their weight correspondingly. Had they been weighed dry, or even with the usual quantity of moisture, few of them would have been above the prescribed limit.

It is not possible to avoid wetting the seals taken on Sea Lion Rock, neither is it permissible to salt the skins without weighing. It is wholly undesirable also to alter the statistics of weights in such manner as to attempt to compensate for excess due to the presence of water or other foreign substances in the fur. The weights therefore

have been recorded as taken, but due allowance must be made for conditions which change the weights and which have no relation to the size of the skins.

The skins that were underweight were likewise taken mainly in food drives, at a time when the natives were eager for fresh meat and when they were restricted to killing seals having skins under 7 pounds. With the necessity of rejecting all the females and all the larger males from the food drives, it can readily be appreciated that the tendency of the natives is to let few of the small males escape, even if the skins weigh a few ounces less than 5 pounds.

On the whole it can be seen that only a few skins of the whole catch were outside the weights prescribed and that these were taken unavoidably.

Weights of sealskins taken on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, during the year ended August 10, 1910.

Weight.	St. Paul Island.[1]	Weight.	St. George Island.[2]
Pounds.		*Pounds.*	
4	6	4	1
4¼	4	4½	5
4½	20	4¾	14
4¾	40	5	125
5	670	5¼	82
5¼	710	5½	406
5½	1,014	5¾	202
5¾	1,277	6	628
6	980	6¼	106
6¼	1,113	6½	524
6½	1,176	6¾	114
6¾	993	7	321
7	752	7¼	43
7¼	553	7½	168
7½	552	7¾	21
7¾	327	8	54
8	203	8¼	4
8¼	172	8½	5
8½	139	9	6
8¾	7	9¼	1
9	17	9½	2
9¼	4	10¼	1
9½	7	10½	1
9¾	4		
10¼	1	Total	2,834
10½	2		
11	1		
11¼	4		
12	1		
Total	10,749		

[1] Nearly all the oversize skins listed from St. Paul Island were taken in a food killing from Sea Lion Rock, on which occasion the skins when weighed carried from 1 to 3 pounds of water each. Had they been dry when weighed, very few or none would have exceeded the prescribed weights. The major portion of skins underweight were taken in food drives for the natives, when large seals were released, and, consequently, the smaller seals were killed closely.

[2] Of the skins from St. George over or under the limit of weight only 3 were taken during the sealing season proper. Four were taken by the company last year, and withheld from the quota; the others were taken during food killings, when the natives were particularly eager for fresh meat.

Following is a statement furnished by Messrs. C. M. Lampson & Co., of the sizes of the sealskins consigned to them by the United States Government for auction in London. This statement shows the classification of the 12,920 skins as weighed and assorted upon their receipt by the firm.

Assortment of Alaska salted fur-seal skins for account of United States Government, Department of Commerce and Labor.

[London, 19th November, 1910, 64 Queen Street, E. C. Subject to recount.]

		Lbs.	Ozs.
78	smalls	7	15
713	large pups	7	2
3,032	middling pups	6	7
4,899	small pups	5	12
1,266	ex. small pups	5	5
11	ex. ex. small pups	4	10
33	smalls, low	7	11
135	large pups, low	6	9
498	middling pups, low	6	1
501	small pups, low	5	9
88	ex. small pups, low	5	0
10	smalls, cut	7	2
71	large pups, cut	6	13
238	middling pups, cut	6	2
421	small pups, cut	5	6
81	ex. small pups, cut	4	15
6	smalls, rubbed	7	0
55	large pups, rubbed	6	14
195	middling pups, rubbed	6	6
290	small pups, rubbed	5	11
75	ex. small pups, rubbed	5	3
36	faulty.		
12,732			
5	smalls.		
21	large pups.		
48	middling pups.		
94	small pups.		
18	ex. small pups.		
2	faulty.		
188			
12,922[1]			

[1] This number recorded as shipped, but two skins afterwards found wedged under seat of boat used for lightering skins to steamer *Homer*.

ENUMERATION OF BREEDING HERD.

COUNTS OF HAREMS.

The usual counting of harems and idle bulls at the height of the season of 1910 disclosed the following:

Count of harems and idle bulls on St. Paul Island, 1910.

Date.	Rookery.	Harems.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Water bulls.
July 12	Lagoon	9	3	.....	.....
12	Tolstoi Cliffs	29	5	1	.....
12	Tolstoi	77	7	1	5
12	Zapadni Reef	7	.....	3	.....
12	Little Zapadni	54	10	4	4
13	Kitovi	53	7	4	4
13	Amphitheater	9	2	1	.....
13	Lukanin	41	5	6	5
13	Ardiguen	11	1	.....	.....
13	Gorbatch Cliffs	2	.....	2	.....
13–15	Gorbatch	110	12	15	.....
13–15	Polavina	50	5	2	10
13–15	Polavina Cliffs	20	5	5	.....
13–15	Little Polavina	12	2	7	.....
14	Northeast Point	251	30	17	10
15	Reef	206	28	4	13
16	Zapadni	118	22	9	4
	Total	1,059	144	81	55

The number of harems on Sea Lion Rock, which could not be visited at this season, is placed at 61, the number found last year.

Count of harems and idle bulls on St. George Island, 1910.

Date.	Rookery.	Harems.	Idle bulls.	Hauling-ground bulls.	Quitters.
July 14	Little East	4	.....	.....	.....
	East Reef	22	6	.....	.....
	East Cliffs	37	[1] 14	.....	.....
	North	103	21	10	.....
	Staraya Artel	48	17	21	.....
	Zapadni	47	19	16	1
	Total	261	77	47	1

[1] Includes hauling-ground bulls.

A summary of the number of bulls on both islands, with a comparison of the number found in 1909, follows:

Summary of bulls on St. Paul and St. George Islands, 1910.

	Harems.	Idle bulls.	Quitters.	Hauling-ground bulls.	Water bulls.
St. Paul	1,059	144	81	.....	55
St. George	261	77	1	47	.....
Sea Lion Rock	[1] 61	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, 1910	1,381	221	82	47	55
Total, 1909	1,399	172	139	98	13

[1] Estimated.

Compared with 1909 the number of harems on both islands has decreased 18, or 1.1 per cent, an inappreciable decrease when contrasted with that which has occurred annually for years. This decrease in harems can not be laid to a scarcity of bulls, as can easily be proved, but to a lack of enough cows to provide other bulls with harems.

On the other hand, the number of idle bulls—that is to say, those mature adult males stationed on rookeries waiting for cows—has been increased from 172 to 221 or a gain of 29 per cent. This is the result of the savings of young males by marking and of further restrictions upon killing, commenced in 1904.

The number of 7-year-old males or "quitters," so termed because of their tendency while idle to desert their stations when approached by man, has decreased from 139 to 82; the number of water bulls has increased from 13 to 55, and of the hauling-ground bulls there has been a decrease from 98 to 47. As these latter classes are more or less unstable, and as some of each class could have been in the water at the time these counts were made, it is not desirable to ascribe specific reasons for the fluctuations in them. The fact is demonstrated, however, that young bulls are present in fair numbers. The further fact that 13 per cent of the stationed bulls, excluding quitters, are idle, indicates conclusively that the herd of breeding bulls is properly safeguarded from too close killing by existing regulations.

COUNTS OF PUPS.

Because of the presence of Japanese schooners in numbers close to the islands, counts of pups on St. Paul Island were limited to Kitovi rookery, including Amphitheater. On St. George Island, for the same reason, pups were not counted except on Little East rookery, which now embraces only a few seals. The St. Paul counts follow:

Counts of pups on St. Paul Island, 1910.

	Live pups.	Dead pups.	Total pups.	Harems.	Average harem.
Kitovi	1,717	57	1,774	53	33.4
Amphitheater	187	5	192	9	21.3
Total, 1910	1,904	62	1,966	62	31.6
Total, 1909	1,915	64	1,979	58	34.1

From the comparison which the foregoing data afford, it would appear that the breeding cows on the rookery have not decreased but have remained virtually stationary as regards numbers during this period. The harems thereon, however, are more numerous, thus giving fewer cows to each bull, or, technically speaking, lowering the average harem on this space from 34.1 in 1909 to 31.6 in 1910.

On St. George the count of pups on Little East, which, as stated, was the only count of pups made on that island, disclosed 75 pups in 4 harems, or an average of 18.7 cows per harem. The great decrease in this rookery (Little East) may be appreciated when it is noted that in 1897 the seal census made by the Jordan Commission gave to this rookery 46 harems and 1,190 cows. The number found there in 1910

represents a diminution in 13 years on this small rookery alone of 42 harems and 1,115 cows.

NUMBER OF BREEDING COWS.

As it is highly impracticable to count the pups on all the rookeries, it has been customary to arrive at the whole number of breeding cows by estimation based upon an actual count of the whole number of harems on the islands and the average number of cows found to be in each of the harems of one rookery, which is accepted as typical of all.

As the number of harems on all islands has been ascertained to be 1,375, and the average harem, as demonstrated by the count of Kitovi, to be 31.6, the whole number of breeding cows in 1910 would be 43,450. As 45,760 of such cows were shown by this method to be present in 1909, the decrease between the years, 2,315, represents a loss of 5 per cent.

This for all practical purposes is a fairly accurate measure of the number of breeding cows, which constitute the most important factor in the herd. While merely an estimate, the number is close enough to actual conditions to be approximately correct. A loss of only 5 per cent in the breeding cows from the pelagic sealing which has been practiced with such assiduity during 1910 would seem too small. However, the statistics of the seal herd for the last few years demonstrate that the rate of decrease during this period has not been large, and it is not out of the way to believe that it was small in 1910.

CENSUS OF ENTIRE SEAL HERD.

Beyond the breeding cows and pups, estimates of which contain much of accuracy, an estimate of the whole herd is very difficult to make, and is unsatisfactory in that it treats of elements which are not susceptible of ascertainment and must be approximated. There are also very few means of testing its accuracy at this or a future time. The methods used are, however, the best that can be devised and tend in the direction of accuracy rather than the opposite.

ESTIMATE OF HALF BULLS.

The record of rejections of seals from drives during the summer season of 1910 shows that 1,168 young males too large to be killed were released from the killing fields. It has been established that not by any means all of this class of animals haul in places where they can be enumerated and that the number of those actually turned away should be doubled at least to arrive at the actual number in existence.

By doubling the number found, 1,168, we would have 2,336 half bulls, from which we may look for recruits to the breeding bulls.

ESTIMATE OF 2-YEAR-OLDS.

In 1908 it was computed that 53,884 pups were born. Being equally divided as to sex, one-half, or 26,942, were males and an equal number females.

In 1909, if we allow the diminution of 50 per cent for mortality at sea, which has been taken heretofore to occur among the pups during

their first migration, one-half of these would return in 1909 as yearlings. There should have been then in 1909 by this method of computation 13,471 yearling males and an equal number of females. These, with a loss of something like 10 per cent, would return in 1910 as 2-year-olds to the number of approximately 12,124 of each sex.

We should have in 1910, therefore, by this computation, over 12,000 virgin or 2-year-old cows and an equal number of males. From the latter, however, at least 7,500 were killed during the last summer, leaving approximately 4,500 2-year-old males in existence at the close of the season. The above computation would indicate that 12,124 2-year-old cows and 4,500 2-year-old males were present at the end of the killing season of 1910.

NUMBER OF YEARLINGS.

In 1909 it was estimated that 45,764 pups were born, half of which were males and half females. By applying a 50 per cent death rate during their initial migration we should have in 1910 11,441 yearling males and the same number of yearling females.

NUMBER OF 3-YEAR-OLDS.

Nine hundred and fifteen 3-year-olds were marked during the summer and released as breeders. An uncertain number in addition was not driven at all and still survive. It would be a moderate allowance to estimate the number of 3-year-olds remaining in the herd at 1,200.

SUMMARY OF SEAL LIFE IN 1910.

From the foregoing computations an approximate census of seal life present on the islands at the close of the sealing season of 1910 would be as follows:

Bulls, active with harems	1,381
Bulls, idle, and quitters	303
Half bulls	2,336
3-year-old bachelors	1,200
2-year-old bachelors	4,500
Yearling bachelors	11,441
Male pups	21,725
Breeding cows	43,450
2-year-old (virgin) cows	12,124
Yearling females	11,441
Female pups	21,725
Total	131,626

The foregoing "census," if we except the bulls with harems, and those idle, is nothing more than an estimate based upon such enumerations as could be made that were of value in determining the number of seals. While it shows over 2,000 seals less than a similar computation in 1909, it nevertheless exhibits apparent increases in certain classes of seals over the preceding census spoken of. For example, the 2-year-old bachelors estimated to be present in 1910 exceed in numbers by over 2,000 those stated to be in existence at the close of the season of 1909. The 2-year-old cows estimated in 1910 are 2,000 more than were assigned for the previous year.

This is the result solely of the method of estimation, adopted alike for both years. Both are based upon the number of cows born two years previously. In 1907, 50,825 pups were estimated to have been born, and 10,165 of these were computed to have survived as 2-year-olds in 1909. On the other hand, in 1908 the same method of estimation would indicate that 53,884 pups were born in that year—3,000 more than in 1907—and that of these the number surviving as 2-year-olds in 1910 was 12,124.

It is believed that it is not the intention of anyone to claim that an increase in seal life has occurred at any time within the past few years in the face of the large catches of seals in the water, consisting mainly of breeding females. It is believed, on the other hand, that a marked decrease has occurred, a belief justified when the contracted space occupied by the breeding seals is viewed. But the measure of this decrease is ascertainable solely by estimation, the same methods being used from year to year. When using only a few seals in establishing a basis for computing the whole number, it is not difficult to realize that a few chance harems more or less on the space counted would have the effect of greatly increasing or decreasing the whole number computed to be in the herd. It would be easy to revise these calculations by adding to or subtracting from the estimated number to make it conform with one's idea of what number should or not be found. But the idea one may have might be more incorrect than the result of the computation. So that in a revision it would not be possible to determine whether in increasing or decreasing the result one was moving in the direction of accuracy or away from it. It is much better to announce the number each year as it may appear from calculations made similarly, and to explain any apparent incongruity by the statement that the whole is an estimate and nothing else.

The result of the killing of 1910 has demonstrated that the number of 2-year-old bachelors, estimated as remaining in the herd at the close of the season of 1909, was entirely too small. In the census of 1909 only 2,165 2-year-old bachelors were allowed. These of course would be 3-year-olds in 1910. As a matter of fact, the skins of 1910 when classified in London showed that perhaps 5,000 of the catch were 3-year-olds. In view of this fact it is believed that, in estimating the number of these, as well as other immature seals, a smaller death rate should be allowed than hitherto.

PUP-RAISING EXPERIMENTS.

In accordance with the bureau's instructions, attempts were made on both St. Paul and St. George Islands to feed starving pups and save their lives. On St. Paul Island the efforts were unsuccessful, but the St. George experiments yielded most interesting results.

ST. PAUL EXPERIMENTS.

Perhaps a dozen or more starving pups were gathered off the various rookeries and brought to the village. An inclosure was at the end of the village pond and the pups were placed in this.

A bottle with an ordinary rubber nipple was used in a first attempt to induce the little animals to nurse. This method failing, however, milk was poured down the pups' throats from the bottle. But this,

besides being difficult and tedious, was uncertain and wasteful, as most of the milk was ejected by the pups before being swallowed. To feed a dozen or more pups with a bottle, moreover, occupied the services of half a dozen men for nearly half a day. Afterwards a tube attached to a funnel was passed into the stomach of each pup and the feeding was accomplished by this means.

Owing to lack of proper material the inclosure in which the pups were placed could not be made tight enough to retain them. Some of the pups escaped to the sea; the others died. Feeding with solid food was not attempted.

Upon the departure of the *Bear* on her last trip from the islands 10 healthy pups upon which no feeding experiments had been attempted were taken from St. Paul rookeries and placed aboard that vessel to be shipped to Seattle for the use of the bureau. All of these arrived safely, having been schooled on the voyage to eat solid food.

ST. GEORGE EXPERIMENTS.

Fifteen starving pups were gathered on St. George Island at various times and different methods were tried to save their lives.

These starvlings readily ate all the small live fish that could be obtained and such other larger fish as the weather would permit the natives to capture offshore. In addition the pups ate salted salmon after it had been freshened in water. Had enough live or fresh dead fish been obtainable it is believed that at least some of the pups that were fed artificially could have been saved.

On September 10, 1910, four starving pups were secured and their frenums cut. All were fed by injections of milk into the stomach. One died that night from congestion of the lungs, probably because of the introduction into the pulmonary tract of milk while feeding. Upon autopsy of this animal a piece of coal as large as a walnut was found lodged in the pylorus. Two of the others escaped the first night.

A corral, having a tank 4 feet by 8 feet and 1 foot deep, was then built and two more pups in addition to the one now remaining were placed in it on September 15. Into this tank filled with water were placed a number of small fish caught among the rocks (probably *Neoliparis*). The pups ate all of these at once and some sculpin cut into small pieces. After this several attempts were made to provide sufficient fresh fish to feed the pups, but owing to rough weather only several days' supply could be obtained. After this salt salmon freshened in water was offered to the pups and eaten. When this latter was finally refused milk and mutton broth were fed to sickly pups.

All but one of these pups, 15 in all, died on the islands, and that one, after being placed aboard the *Bear*, died before reaching Seattle.

These experiments are of value, however, as demonstrating that by September 15 these pups have advanced to such a stage that they can eat and digest solid food, even though they continue to nurse during October and November. At that age they readily eat live fish and even pieces of dead fish. The results also show, however, that on the seal islands these experiments can not be carried on with hope of success because fresh fish can not be obtained with regularity in sufficient quantity. Had these pups been taken to

Unalaska, where small fish can be readily obtained, it is believed that much better results would have followed.

Of the 14 that died on St. George Island, the autopsies in two cases disclosed occlusion of the pylorus by stones taken through the mouth. The death of at least one of the pups was due to this condition.

PELAGIC SEALING.

During the season of 1910, 25 Japanese sealing schooners were boarded by revenue-cutter vessels on patrol in Bering Sea. Of these, 2 were seized by the cutters, 1 for a violation of the alien fishing laws and another for a violation of the customs law (sec. 2773, Rev. Stat.). As a rule pelagic sealing vessels kept outside the 3-mile limit, and, so far as known, none of the men composing the crews landed upon the islands for the purpose of killing seals.

Eleven Japanese in 3 small boats landed on St. Paul Island on July 30 and 31. It was stated by them that they had been lost from their schooners and came to the islands as a place of refuge. They were quartered on the islands until August 8, when they were placed aboard the *Manning* and taken to Unalaska, with 4 native witnesses, charged with having landed upon the islands without permission, in violation of the act of April 21, 1910.

Upon trial before the United States commissioner at Unalaska they were found guilty and each sentenced to a week's imprisonment. After serving this sentence they were placed aboard a Japanese sealing schooner, with their boats, guns, and other property, and sent home.

Unofficial reports indicate that 5 Canadian sealing vessels took seals last year in Bering Sea. Their catch from both the Pribilof and Asiatic herds aggregated 3,775 skins. The total pelagic catch from the Pribilof herd, as shown by London trade sales, was in the neighborhood of 15,000 skins.

WRECK OF REVENUE-CUTTER PERRY.

On the early morning of July 26, 1910, the revenue cutter *Perry* went ashore on Rocky Point Reef, St. Paul Island, in a thick fog. Shortly afterwards, by the action of the swell, her bottom was punctured on the rocks upon which she lay, and all efforts to get her off were futile. Such movable property (guns, stores, boats, etc.) as could be readily transported was brought ashore and stored in an empty warehouse at Rocky Point. The entire crew was quartered at the village for several days and was made as comfortable as circumstances permitted. The teams and native men on the islands were used for several days in rendering assistance. Later the *Perry's* men and stores were taken aboard the other cutters in the fleet and the wreck stripped and abandoned. On August 19 the hull was broken up by a strong southerly gale and scarcely anything was left to mark where she grounded.

FOXES.

The history of foxing on the Pribilof Islands is interesting. What number of fox skins were taken off these islands by the Russians will never be known. Petroff (1883) states that 34,767 were taken from

1842 to 1860, inclusive. From that date to 1867 the fox skins taken from the islands are not segregated from the returns of those taken from general Alaskan sources, which are given by Petrof as 27,731. From 1870 to 1890 fox skins to the number of 4,380 on St. Paul and 20,412 on St. George were taken and shipped by the Alaska Commercial Co. From 1890 to 1910, 2,963 fox skins were taken on St. Paul and 13,641 on St. George.

During the lease of the Alaska Commercial Co. (1870–1889) there existed no contract with the Government for the right to purchase these skins, and the only expenditure by the company for the more than 24,000 skins it received was the 50 cents it paid the natives for each skin. The North American Commercial Co. during the greater portion of its 20-year lease paid to the natives $5 for each blue and $1 for each white fox skin.

Foxes are trapped annually on St. George Island in house traps which do not injure the animal. The catch last year there was 227. On St. Paul Island, where these animals never have been as plentiful as they were on the other island, no trapping has been done since 1903 until last winter (1909–10), when 185 were secured. These were killed in steel traps. For the blues the natives received $5 apiece; for the whites, $1. This money was applied to the natives' support.

CONDITIONS AND TRAPPINGS ON ST. GEORGE ISLAND.

On St. George Island, during the winter of 1909–10, the feeding of foxes in the herd during the period from October 20 to June 1 was continued as in former years. Seal carcasses preserved from killings during the summer formed the greater portion of the material fed, together with about 3,000 pounds of salted codfish freshened in sea water.

For some reason, not ascertained exactly, a smaller number of foxes passed through the house and box traps during the winter in question than ever before since feeding the foxes and selective trapping began. Whether this is the result of an actual diminution in the herd, or whether other conditions, such as an abundance of food outside the traps or an instinctive fear of entering the traps, were the cause, can not be stated definitely.

During the winter of 1909–10 only 335 foxes passed through the traps on St. George Island. To show the smallness of this number as compared with former years, a table with the total number of foxes handled in the various years during which selective trapping has been followed is given below:

1898–99	842	1904–5	766
1899–1900	973	1905–6	1,061
1900–1901	1,335	1906–7	882
1901–2	1,104	1907–8	1,006
1902–3	1,011	1908–9	798
1903–4	1,061	1909–10	335

In trapping the practice is to catch all animals alive, to release as breeders a certain number of pairs of the most vigorous, and to kill those that are not considered the best examples of the species. Those released are marked, so as to be thereafter recognizable, by clipping a ring out of the hair on the tail of the animal, the marks differing for the sexes. Such foxes as escape being trapped, not being marked of course, can be distinguished at sight.

No such number of foxes not marked was seen in the winter mentioned as to lead unquestionably to the conclusion that the herd has not diminished. There are, on the other hand, good grounds for believing that it has diminished. The causes of this probable fact, however, are obscure and conjectural. The very few found dead did not justify the belief that any epidemic had occurred.

A summary of the statistics of trapping on St. George Island during the winter of 1909–10 is appended:

Marked and released:	
Blue males	51
Blue females	57
Killed for pelts:	
Blue males	126
Blue females	86
White males	5
White females	4
Skins from animals found dead, etc	6
Skins accepted by lessee, blue	203
Skins rejected by lessee, blue	6
Skins mangey, etc., thrown away	9
White fox skins accepted by lessee	9
Total number of animals handled	335

These pelts, having been taken during the period covered by the contract of the North American Commercial Co., were delivered to it upon payment at the stipulated rate of $5 for each blue skin and $1 for each white skin. The money thus derived was used exclusively for the support of natives.

TRAPPING ON ST. PAUL ISLAND.

During the winter of 1909–10, for the first time since 1904, there were considered to be foxes enough on St. Paul to justify trapping, which accordingly was carried on during a period of six days.

On this island, unlike St. George, notwithstanding repeated efforts to secure it, the foxes do not congregate in large groups, permitting systematic feeding and selective trapping. Any trapping therefore on St. Paul must be done with the spring steel trap, in the use of which the native trappers must scatter over the entire island.

In the six days of trapping mentioned, the St. Paul natives secured on that island 130 blue and 35 white foxes. In addition, a boat load of native men went over to Otter Island, and there secured 19 blues and 1 white. Observations made during the past summer indicate that the fox herd on St. Paul Island has not diminished appreciably as the result of this trapping of the previous winter.

The skins taken on St. Paul and Otter Islands were delivered to the North American Commercial Co. and payment made at the same rate as on St. George. This difference between the management of the two islands exists, however, that whereas the earnings on St. George from fox skins are formed into a community fund, on St. Paul each individual trapper is given the use of the money from such fox skins as he has been able to secure.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

KILLING OF BACHELOR SEALS.

The methods used in taking seals during the past season of 1910 were the same as those used by the two lessees in the preceding 40 years' tenure of the sealing right, and the same, in fact, in all fundamental respects as those pursued by the Russians since 1840. They are the result of years of experience and are the best that can be devised to meet the conditions. No change in them should be made.

The practice of killing bachelor seals for skins as well as for natives' food should not be abandoned unless a cogent reason presents itself. No harm to the seal herd can result from the killing of surplus males. No benefit to the herd could accrue from the maturing of males unnecessary for purposes of reproduction, which, when of adult age, would have no female consorts, but which, by incessant and furious fighting, would destroy or cripple the breeding bulls and themselves as well.

It is true that a test to insure the survival of the fittest should be applied to the male fur seal, as in fact it should to all breeders. It is not true, however, that this test can only be made through trial of combat. With respect to some groups of animals, such as the Pinnipedia, conditions of their natural environment may be so severe as to eliminate weaklings as effectually or even more so than would fighting among themselves, and nature provides an eliminative process in the case of the fur seal entirely apart from the struggling of bulls with each other for supremacy on land. This test begins almost with a seal's birth.

When the baby seal has scarcely learned to swim beyond the borders of the rookery on which it is born, while it is still a suckling and knows not how to seek other food, it is separated from its mother and driven off the land by the rigor of the climate. Weak and unskillful swimmer as the pup is, not only must it withstand the severe winter storms in the northern ocean but in the same unfavorable element pursue and capture its food and elude its natural enemies of the sea. As the result of this struggle with the natural conditions in which it is placed it is estimated that one-half of the pups die during the initial migration. Only the strongest and most wary can survive this trial.

This struggle for existence continues incessantly during the animal's life. From each migration it sends back to the breeding grounds only those animals hardy enough to withstand its severity. That animal leaving the rookeries with any physical imperfection does not return. It dies at sea. Those that do return are the most perfect examples of their class.

With this severe eliminative test occurring as the result of natural environment, to superimpose a violent struggle with his own kind after the animal has reached the breeding ground would be to subject him to further stress entirely unnecessary to prove his ability as a breeder. Having passed successfully through the winter's migration, the animal returns to the rookeries a perfect specimen of its kind. A severe trial by combat could not have the effect of increasing its breeding efficiency, but, on the other hand, could only seriously impair if not wholly destroy it. It would be the same if two valuable

stallions, each physically perfect, and matched in strength and courage, were allowed to fight with each other until one were killed. The survivor, if one did survive, would be so seriously injured by its opponent as to be rendered incapable of service for the time being, if not permanently.

To breed a large number of surplus male seals merely that they may fight among themselves and determine the strongest in combat is useless. By the time the strongest individuals have proved their superiority they have expended so much of their energy in fighting that physically weaker but fresh animals may overpower them and take their cows. Such is the history of the Pribilof rookeries during the time when thousands of idle bulls were present. Instances to substantiate this conclusion were witnessed many times.

Since physical combat is not required to test the ability of a male fur seal, no reason is known for providing a number of males beyond that necessary to fertilize the females in the herd. Therefore the practice of killing surplus males at the time when their pelts have a considerable commercial value should be continued. Surely no purely sentimental reason should prevail over those of practical weight.

SUPPORT OF NATIVES.

The present system of supporting the natives on the Pribilof Islands should be changed. Under it the native receives enough food, fuel, and clothing to sustain life, but only a portion of the sum necessary for his maintenance comes to him as compensation for labor performed, the remainder being donated as a gratuity through an appropriation of Congress. This latter feature is the most objectionable of all and the one which it is sought to eliminate. Better to explain the situation, the following brief summary is given of the manner in which the natives have been supported since they were first transported to these islands.

In 1787, the year following the discovery of St. George Island, the discoverer, Pribilof, brought to the islands a number of native families, principally from Unalaska, and landed them there to serve as laborers in taking skins from the animals with which the islands abounded. Several other adventurers also brought natives to these islands and founded small villages at several points thereon. In 1799, upon the taking over by the Russian-American Co. of the administration of the whole of Alaska, the competing traders were sent away from the Pribilofs and the islands passed under the autocratic control of Baranof. A cessation of killing was ordered, and in 1806–7 nearly all the natives were removed to Unalaska.

In 1808 seal killing began again, with accessions of laborers mainly from Unalaska and adjacent villages. On St. Paul Island the natives were drawn together and huddled into one settlement at Halfway Point. About 1825, for convenience in handling cargo, the village was again changed to its present site.

On St. George Island several settlements existed originally, but were consolidated at the present site about 1830–1835.

Under the Russian régime, especially under the management of the Russian American Co., which provided the machinery of government for the territory during the tenure of its privilege, the natives were mere slaves. They had no redress for any injury or insolence

which their masters might see fit to inflict upon them. Their habitations were large communal dwellings of earth, half underground, cold, and filthy. Here they lived and died unnoticed and uncared for. They subsisted on fish and the flesh of seals, with the addition of roots and a very little flour.

In 1835, Veniaminof states, the natives worked at whatever was found and whatever they were directed to do. Payment was not established by the day or year, but for each skin taken by them or for what was placed to their credit. They received no specific wage, though they were not all of equal ability, there being usually three or four classes. In these classes the sick and old workmen were counted, although they were only burdens, and therefore received the smallest shares, about 150 rubles, and the other and better classes 220 to 250 rubles a year. Those who were zealous were rewarded by a present of 50 to 100 rubles. The wives of the Aleuts, who worked only at seal killing, received from 25 to 35 rubles. These rubles were scrip currency, made of leather, equal in value to a franc, or about 20 cents.

In 1868, at the time of the purchase of Alaska by the United States, the natives were living in semisubterranean houses built of turf and such pieces of driftwood and whalebone as they were able to secure on the beach. Their food was seal meat and a few articles furnished in meager quantity by the Russian company. They had no fuel except driftwood and blubber, and depended for heat upon crowding together in the sod houses, sleeping upon the dried grasses secured upon the islands.

In 1870 the Alaska Commercial Co. took charge of the islands under a lease. It at once built neat frame dwellings for the natives, and paid them 40 cents apiece for each sealskin taken. As 100,000 were taken annually this gave the natives about $40,000 each year, enough to support them in qualified comfort. While this sum was divided on a communal basis, some natives by thrift and economy were able to save sums amounting to perhaps $2,500 each. No interference with the expenditure of their earnings was made by the agents.

When, however, after 1890, under the lease of the North American Commercial Co., the take of skins was reduced to a few thousands annually, the natives faced starvation. Their earnings at this time, at the rate of 50 cents for each skin, were entirely insufficient. To relieve this stuation, the Government did not increase the wages of the natives for taking skins, but, as the reduction of the catch was due mainly to arbitrary restrictions by the Government, furnished an annual appropriation of $19,500 to supplement the natives' earnings for their support.

This appropriation, while keeping the natives from starving, made an important change in their fiscal relations. Heretofore the native could expend his earnings as he pleased. After the appropriation, however, the earnings were sequestered by the agents, and the natives had no voice whatever in the expenditure of the money for which they toiled. Each native was allotted articles of necessity to a certain amount each week payable from his wages, and after the latter were expended the appropriation was drawn upon at the same rate until another sealing season intervened.

This practice exists to-day. The natives now receive $1 for each skin taken, in addition to the annual appropriation of $19,500.

Their total income from taking seals and foxes, with the appropriation, was last year about $34,000, or somewhat more than $100 for each person.

The system of distribution of these earnings is one of pure communism. The native men are divided into about four classes, according to ability in taking seals. The members of each class receive a like sum, those in the first class being given more than those in the second, and so on to the fourth class, the lowest, which embraces apprentices. These sums, whatever they may be, are credited to each native and are drawn upon each week by orders on the store issued by the agent to the head of each family, the amount of the order varying with the size of the family. This plan of compensation, while assuring provision for the natives' immediate needs is highly objectionable when considered from a sociological standpoint, its weakness being that it reduces all to a common level. It prevents that progress that accrues from the cultivation of superior skill or greater self-denial, and makes a virtual almshouse of the Pribilof reservation by dealing with the inhabitants as indigents. It requires willing service of the native, but takes from him his wage and expends it for his benefit without his consent. Incentive to increased individual efficiency is lacking because effort to that end is fruitless in bringing any greater benefit than if it had not been made.

It is reasonable to assume that the Government, while operating on the seal islands for its own profit, at the same time desires to better the condition of the native residents upon whose efforts it must depend for successful conduct of its business. The first step in that direction is to do away with the appropriation of Congress for their support and to increase the wage earned through the taking of skins to a sum at least equal to the amount necessary for their maintenance. This would at once eliminate the objectionable element of charity in the present system and allow each man to support himself and family from his own earnings. Such a course is in my opinion not only an act of simple justice, the consummation of which would, moreover, involve no additional expense to the Government, but would go far toward increasing the moral tone of the native, by making him more self-reliant and self-respecting. It can be taken without additional legislation, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor now having the power under existing law to fix the natives' compensation for taking skins.

SCHEME OF COMPENSATION OF NATIVES.

The scheme of compensation embodied in the foregoing recommendations may be summarized as follows:

1. The appropriation for natives' support to be discontinued.
2. For natives' labor an allotment should be made of, say, $3 for each sealskin.
3. The moneys thus derived should be formed into a general fund, which should be prorated among all the natives of both islands.
4. This fund, by agreement with the natives, to be used for their support at the rate of a certain weekly amount based upon the number of mouths in each family.
5. The balance or remainder of each native's account at the close of each year to be paid to the native in cash.

It must be understood that the native is restricted by his work to the seal islands and can not go forth to pursue any other vocation, be it more or less profitable. It is not fair to this laborer to deny him all progress in the world and to confine him in his necessarily restricted sphere to such compensation only as permits the bare necessaries of life to him and his family. Whatever a corporation having a lease of the sealing privilege may have done, the United States Government ought not to put its laborer into the condition of constant and continuous vassalage with all progress denied him.

NATIVES ON THE ALEUTIAN ARCHIPELAGO.

The Aleut race is not found on the mainland, but inhabits the Aleutian Archipelago and several of the islands along the coast of the Alaskan Peninsula. It was never numerous and now embraces probably fewer than 1,000 souls, whose numbers are decreasing rapidly from disease and insufficient food. Some action should be taken to ameliorate their condition.

When discovered by the Russians in the eighteenth century, these Aleuts were a hardy race of fishermen and aquatic hunters. In their tiny bidarkis or skin boats they made long journeys and in them successfully weathered storms that would have sent the European rowboat to the bottom. They subsisted upon fish and the flesh of such warm-blooded animals as they could capture.

Being a tractable race, except when goaded to desperation, they were at once made use of by the Russians as hunters of the sea otter, which was the fur the white men most eagerly sought. Whole fleets of bidarkis with hundreds of native hunters would be transported hundreds of miles from their homes, and thence with a little food supplied them were put to sea to buffet with the storms of the northern ocean which withal were not so greatly feared by the natives as by their white masters. Thousands of them never returned.

Aleuts in numbers were taken to Sitka by the Russians as hunters and laborers, and kept there until they died. Entire fleets of bidarki hunters were loaned by the Russian company to foreign vessels to hunt sea otter, the profits of the venture being shared equally by the vessel and the company. The ship was required to pay the Russian company about 200 Mexican dollars for every Aleut lost at sea or killed by coast Indians. In 1805, 20 bidarkis were fitted out at Kodiak and with a colony of natives were taken to San Quinten Bay in Lower California, where they were required to hunt for fur seals. This colony struggled on until 1841, when it was abandoned.

In the draft of the terms upon which the Russian-American Co. should receive an extension of its charter, after its expiration in 1891, or thereabouts, the following paragraph is found:

> 10. The Aleuts and other peaceful natives within the colonies are relieved from compulsory labor on behalf of the Russian-American Co. They shall be allowed to settle in localities which they may find convenient, and shall be free to absent themselves from the places of their residence, subject only to such rules of police as may be established by the board of administration of the colonies.

This clause in the proposed charter was inserted to cure abuses in respect to the treatment of natives reported by Golovnin and the creole Kashevarof. In short, the Government would renew the charter only under such terms as the company would not accept.

When the Russian-American Co. acquired control of Alaska the Aleuts were paid nothing for sea-otter skins, but in lieu of compensation received subsistence and "exemption from imperial taxes and dues." When this practice was forbidden by the Emperor Alexander I and the company instructed to pay the natives for every skin deposited by them with the company, the natives received for every sea otter 10 rubles in leather scrip, the equivalent of $2, but each hunter was required to furnish his own subsistence. The company sold the sea-otter skins for at least $100 each.

Upon the occupation of the territory by Americans, the native, from a condition of abject misery and want, was plunged into a state of affluence of which he knew not how to take advantage. Rival trading companies established stations along the coast where sea otters abounded, and bid eagerly for the furs brought in by the native hunters. But while paying him liberally for the skins, the traders adroitly exposed for sale in the stores articles of sheer luxury to tempt the native's cupidity and encourage him to expend the money received for his skins. During the seventies and eighties the Aleut sea-otter hunter clothed his women in satins and silks of the gaudiest colors; his hut contained a brussels carpet and a parlor organ; his church received large donations; in short, a great deal of his earnings was expended at once for luxuries and he was forced to hypothecate his next year's catch of skins to obtain supplies to support his family during the winter.

With the commercial disappearance of the sea otter, however, the native again relapsed into a condition of penury bordering on starvation. Whereas in the days of plenty he lived on tinned meats and luxuries from the trader's store; now to sustain life he was driven again to fish and to hunt. Having contracted the vice of drunkenness, even in his poverty he would barter his skins for rum, or for sugar and flour with which to make the Russian strong beer. Disease sapped his vitality and decimated his villages.

Such practically is the condition to-day of the native on the Aleutian chain. While formerly he had to subsist upon what he could wrest from nature, he was then as free from the vices of civilization as he is now of its saving benefits. His contact with the white race has encouraged appetites of which the native was previously ignorant and has taken away his self-reliance and ability to cope with his surroundings. In his state of poverty the furs he is still able to gather are the object of desire of small traders, who visit his settlements annually and exchange trade goods for furs. The native has no resource but to part with his furs at such prices as the trader may wish to give.

Unless the Government takes active measures this interesting race of people will become extinct. And since the Government is trying to save species of the lower animals which are threatened with that calamity, it would seem proper that similar attention should be paid to a race of human beings which is rapidly disappearing. A simple and yet it is believed an effective plan to accomplish this end is offered and earnestly recommended to the attention of the department:

1. The entire archipelago to be made a special reservation. This can be accomplished without difficulty or friction. There are no vested rights in the entire range of islands, so far as known, except

at Dutch Harbor, a small portion of which has been surveyed and patented. The property of the Alaska Commercial Co. at Unalaska is built on a Government reservation on which it has only squatter's rights. For its buildings it should receive compensation.

The islands in this chain are devoid of timber. Coal or minerals have appeared only in too small quantities to justify exploiting. Agriculture on any scale to support life is impossible. Grazing is impracticable. There are no good harbors except at Dutch Harbor and Unalaska. Fish are plentiful, but the streams are so small that commercial fishing will not pay. In short, there exists no good reason why these islands should not be set apart for the use of those aboriginal inhabitants claiming them as their native land.

2. Trading by private persons or corporations to be prohibited.

3. The Government to maintain a station at each principal settlement, of which there are not over five. Each station to contain a store and a school, with a storekeeper and school-teacher, the whole to be under the supervision of a general agent.

4. The storekeepers should buy the natives' peltries and such other articles as they may have for sale, including baskets, at a fair price; the native should be encouraged to self-support and thrift.

5. Small fishing stations could be maintained, the product of which could be marketed for natives' account.

This plan can be worked out and operated with little trouble and expense. Without some provision of this nature the Aleuts on the archipelago will be wiped out by disease and lack of food. With the Government willingly expending thousands of dollars to prevent extermination of the lower animals, surely no justification is needed for expenditure to prevent the extinction of a race of men who were hardy and self-reliant until brought into contact with European races.

MANUAL TRAINING FOR NATIVES.

During the Russian occupation certain native youths exhibiting special aptitude were trained in the useful arts, such as carpentry, boat building, iron and copper working, etc.

But those natives so educated in Russian times have nearly all died, and the new generation can not build its own houses or boats. No training of this character, although greatly needed, has been provided by our Government.

Some arrangements should be made to teach the Aleuts how to work at other employments than their natural one of hunting. A teacher of the useful trades should be provided on each of the Pribilof Islands. A small school could also be established at Unalaska, and the young men from the entire archipelago sent there for a course of instruction. I recommend this to careful consideration.

FIRE PROTECTION FOR PRIBILOF ISLANDS.

The villages of St. Paul and St. George are entirely without fire protection, and with the high winds that prevail are fortunate indeed in never having had a disastrous conflagration. Aside from the money loss entailed, such a contingency, should it occur in winter and destroy the food supply in the warehouses, would probably result in the starvation of the inhabitants. Native dwellings have been ignited by overturned kerosene lamps and in one case a whole native family

while asleep was asphyxiated by fire in the interior of their house. In every case so far, however, the blaze has been discovered and extinguished before it could take serious hold upon the framework of the building.

I strongly urge the provision of adequate fire protection for both islands. The isolation of the locality demands that some means be supplied for the prevention of conflagration, which there would be a catastrophe. The investment of a small amount for this purpose would be sufficient to provide protection for years, and would be the cheapest fire insurance that could be obtained. Should these buildings burn, the business not only would be seriously interfered with and the native and white inhabitants threatened with starvation, but the Government would lose the amount of its investment and be obliged to spend twice as much to replace the plant as was paid for it.

As to means, chemical apparatus could be used in summer time, but would be of little avail in winter because of the likelihood of freezing while not in use.

In winter running water under pressure would be the only resort. Running water is not available at present, but could be supplied by any of the following means:

On St. Paul.—1. Sea water could be pumped through a small standpipe by a gasoline engine and distributed through mains in the village.

2. Fresh water from a lake a mile away could be piped to the village by pumping, and held in a large reservoir of sufficient capacity to furnish fresh water not only for fire protection but for natives' use.

3. Water from wells a half mile from the village could be pumped and used in the same manner as in suggestion 2.

On St. George.—1. Salt water could be pumped as in the preceding suggestion 1.

2. The water system already in use there, whereby water is brought by gravity and siphoning from a lake to the village, could be adapted to furnish a stream that would reach over any native dwelling and probably any larger warehouse or dwelling.

Laws and Regulations Relative to Fur-Seal Fishing.

The following act of Congress, approved December 29, 1897, and the annexed regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration, concluded at Washington, February 29, 1892, in relation to the fur seals, are published for the information of all concerned:

Act of Congress approved December 29, 1897.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no citizen of the United States, nor person owing duty of obedience to the laws or the treaties of the United States, nor any person belonging to or on board of a vessel of the United States, shall kill, capture, or hunt, at any time or in any manner whatever, any fur seal in the waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and including Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk.

Sec. 2. That no citizen of the United States, nor person above described in section one, shall equip, use, or employ, or furnish aid in equipping, using or employing, or furnish supplies to any vessel used

or employed, or to be used or employed in carrying on or taking part in said killing, capturing, or hunting of fur seals in said waters, nor shall any vessel of the United States be so used or employed.

SEC. 3. That every person guilty of a violation of the provisions of this Act, or of any regulations made thereunder, shall, for each offense, be fined not less than two hundred dollars or more than two thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both; and every vessel, its tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo, at any time used or employed in violation of this Act, or of the regulations made thereunder, shall be forfeited to the United States.

SEC. 4. That if any vessel of the United States shall be found within the waters to which this Act applies, having on board fur-seal skins, or bodies of seals, or apparatus or implements suitable for killing or taking seals, it shall be presumed that such vessel was used or employed in the killing of said seals, or that said apparatus or implements were used in violation of this Act until the contrary is proved to the satisfaction of the court.

SEC. 5. That any violation of this Act or of the regulations thereunder may be prosecuted either in the district court of Alaska or in any district court of the United States in California, Oregon, or Washington.

SEC. 6. That this Act shall not interfere with the privileges accorded to Indians dwelling on the coast of the United States under section six of the Act of April sixth, eighteen hundred and ninety-four, but the limitations prescribed in said Act shall remain in full force.

SEC. 7. That this Act shall not affect in any way the killing or taking of fur seals upon the Pribilof Islands, or the laws of the United States relating thereto.

SEC. 8. That any officer of the Naval or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States, and any other officers duly designated by the President, may search any vessel of the United States in port or on the high seas suspected of having violated or of having an intention to violate the provisions of this Act, and may seize such vessel and the offending officers and crew and bring them into the most accessible port of the States and Territory mentioned in section five of this Act for trial.

SEC. 9. That the importation into the United States by any person whatsoever of fur-seal skins taken in the waters mentioned in this Act, whether raw, dressed, dyed, or manufactured, is hereby prohibited, and all such articles imported after this Act shall take effect shall not be permitted to be exported, but shall be seized and destroyed by the proper officers of the United States.

SEC. 10. That the President shall have power to make all necessary regulations to carry this Act into effect.

Approved, December 29, 1897.

Under the provisions of the foregoing act of Congress it is unlawful for any citizen of the United States or any vessel thereof to engage in pelagic sealing at any time or in any manner, in the waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude, in the Bering Sea, and the Sea of Okhotsk, and it shall be the duty of vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service of the United States to seize any United States vessel found violating this law, whether during the open or

closed season prescribed in the regulations of the Paris Arbitration Tribunal, and to send or bring such vessel, her officers and crew into the most accessible port of the United States for trial.

REGULATIONS OF THE PARIS TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION.

Whereas the following articles of the award of the Tribunal of Arbitration constituted under the treaty concluded at Washington the twenty-ninth of February, eighteen hundred and ninety-two, between the United States of America and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, were delivered to the agents of the respective Governments on the fifteenth day of August, eighteen hundred and ninety-three:

ARTICLE 1.

The Governments of the United States and Great Britain shall forbid their citizens and subjects, respectively, to kill, capture, or pursue at any time, and in any manner whatever, the animals commonly called fur seals, within a zone of sixty miles around the Pribilof Islands inclusive of the territorial waters.

The miles mentioned in the preceding paragraphs are geographical miles, of sixty to a degree of latitude.

ARTICLE 2.

The two Governments shall forbid their citizens and subjects, respectively, to kill, capture, or pursue, in any manner whatever, during the season extending, each year, from the first of May to the thirty-first of July, both inclusive, the fur seals on the high sea in the part of the Pacific Ocean, inclusive of the Bering Sea, which is situated to the north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude, and eastward of the one hundred and eightieth degree of longitude from Greenwich till it strikes the water boundary described in article one of the treaty of eighteen hundred and sixty-seven between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Bering Straits.

ARTICLE 3.

During the period of time and in the waters in which the fur-seal fishing is allowed, only sailing vessels shall be permitted to carry on or take part in fur-seal fishing operations. They will, however, be at liberty to avail themselves of the use of such canoes or undecked boats, propelled by paddles, oars, or sails, as are in common use as fishing boats.

ARTICLE 4.

Each sailing vessel authorized to fish for fur seals must be provided with a special license issued for that purpose by its Government, and shall be required to carry a distinguishing flag to be prescribed by its Government.

ARTICLE 5.

The masters of the vessels engaged in fur-seal fishing shall enter accurately in their official log book the date and place of each fur-seal fishing operation, and also the number and sex of the seals captured upon each day. These entries shall be communicated by each of the two Governments to the other at the end of the fishing season.

ARTICLE 6.

The use of nets, firearms, and explosives shall be forbidden in the fur-seal fishing. This restriction shall not apply to shotguns when such fishing takes place outside of Bering Sea during the season when it may be lawfully carried on.

ARTICLE 7.

The two Governments shall take measures to control the fitness of the men authorized to engage in fur-seal fishing; these men shall have been proved fit to handle with sufficient skill the weapons by means of which this fishing may be carried on.

ARTICLE 8.

The regulations contained in the preceding articles shall not apply to Indians dwelling on the coast of the territory of the United States or of Great Britain and carrying on fur-seal fishing in canoes or undecked boats not transported by or used in connection with other vessels and propelled wholly by paddles, oars, or sails, and manned by not more than five persons each in the way hitherto practiced by the Indians, provided such Indians are not in the employment of other persons, and provided that, when so hunting in canoes or undecked boats, they shall not hunt fur seals outside of territorial waters under contract for the delivery of the skins to any person.

This exemption shall not be construed to affect the municipal law of either country, nor shall it extend to the waters of Bering Sea or the waters of the Aleutian Passes.

Nothing herein contained is intended to interfere with the employment of Indians as hunters or otherwise in connection with fur-sealing vessels as heretofore.

ARTICLE 9.

The concurrent regulations hereby determined with a view to the protection and preservation of the fur seals shall remain in force until they have been, in whole or in part, abolished or modified by common agreement between the Governments of the United States and of Great Britain.

The said concurrent regulations shall be submitted every five years to a new examination, so as to enable both interested Governments to consider whether, in the light of past experience, there is occasion for any modification thereof.

The above regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration are still in force as applicable to British vessels. The closed season for pelagic sealing is therein fixed from the 1st of May to the 31st of July, both

inclusive, during which period it is unlawful for British vessels to kill, capture, or pursue the fur seals on the high seas in the Pacific Ocean north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude or eastward of the one hundred and eightieth degree of longitude. Under said regulations British vessels are permitted to engage in pelagic sealing after the 31st of July, but in the performance of said sealing they are forbidden to enter within a zone of 60 miles around the Pribilof Islands. It shall be the duty of vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service detailed to patrol the waters above described to seize any British vessel found violating the said regulations of the Paris Arbitration Tribunal, and send or bring the vessel so offending, with all persons on board, together with the proofs and declarations of the officer making the seizure, to Unalaska and deliver her to the senior British naval officer present, or to the most convenient port in British Columbia, and there deliver her to the proper authorities of Great Britain or to the commanding officer of any British vessel charged with the enforcement of said regulations.

In addition to the foregoing laws for the protection of fur seals, the President has issued Executive orders creating Government reservations as follows in the vicinity of the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Alaska, and forbidding the disturbance of all animal life found thereon, under penalties described in the act of Congress approved May 11, 1908:

Walrus and Otter Islands, of the Pribilof Group, in Bering Sea, located approximately in latitude 57° north, longitude 170° west from Greenwich; known as the "Pribilof Reservation."

St. Matthew Island, Hall Island, and Pinnacle Islet, in Bering Sea, located approximately in latitude 60° 30′ north, longitude 172° 30′ west from Greenwich; known as "Bering Sea Reservation."

Bogoslof Islands, Alaska, in Bering Sea, located approximately in latitude 53 degrees 58 minutes north, longitude 167 degrees 53 minutes west from Greenwich, known as the "Bogoslof Reservation."

The act approved June 14, 1906, prohibits aliens from fishing in the waters of Alaska within the jurisdiction of the United States.

CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

PART II. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO REVENUE-CUTTER PATROL.

MARCH 21, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In view of the activity displayed last season by pelagic sealing schooners in the close vicinity of the Pribilof Islands and the consequent necessity for the presence of enough Government vessels to safeguard the Federal interests on and about said islands, I have the honor to request that the same number of four revenue cutters be detailed for service on patrol duty in Bering Sea as was engaged last year, and that the period of patrol be made to commence on June 1, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

I have to request, further, because of the uncertainty regarding the renewal of the lease of the sealing right and of the presence of the usual steamer of the lessee transporting agents of this department

and supplies to the islands, that facilities be afforded on the cutters for the transportation of agents and employees of this department to the Pribilof Islands in the spring and from the islands as soon after the close of the sealing season as practicable, and for the transportation to the islands of such supplies for the natives and others as the cutters may be able to carry.

Respectfully,

CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 30, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In reply to your request of the 21st instant for the detail of revenue cutters to protect the fur seals in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands, Bering Sea, during the coming season, I have the honor to inform you that three revenue cutters will be assigned to such duty. The demands upon the Revenue-Cutter Service in the public interests in other quarters will permit only of three cutters being so assigned, but from previous experience it is believed that this number will be ample to safeguard the Federal interests in those waters. The following-named vessels will, therefore, be detailed: *Tahoma*, *Manning*, and *Perry*. The *Rush*, which this season will perform duty in the waters of southeastern Alaska, will patrol off the coast between Yakutat Bay and Dixon Entrance (with base at Sitka) early in the season for the purpose of preventing violations of law by sealing vessels in that locality. The *Bear*, which will make the annual cruise into the Arctic Ocean, will be directed to patrol from St. Paul Harbor, Kodiak Island, to Cape Pankof, Unimak Island, from the middle to the last of May, reaching Unalaska June 1, previous to her departure for the far north.

The vessels sailing for Bering Sea will leave the following named ports on the dates indicated: *Bear*, San Francisco, May 2; *Tahoma*, Seattle, about April 26; *Perry*, San Francisco, May 5; *Manning*, Port Townsend, May 20.

All these vessels are equipped with wireless.

Transportation will be given the agents and employees of the islands, and supplies will be carried to such extent as the facilities of the cutters will permit. It is suggested that a representative of your department confer with the captain commandant of the Revenue-Cutter Service regarding this matter.

Respectfully,

FRANKLIN MACVEAGH,
Secretary.

APRIL 5, 1910.

Senior Capt. D. P. FOLEY,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Port Townsend, Wash.

SIR: 1. You are informed that the President has designated the revenue cutters *Tahoma*, *Manning*, and *Perry* to cruise as far as may be practicable the present season in the north Pacific Ocean and Ber-

ing Sea, including the waters of Alaska, within the domain of the United States, for the enforcement of the act of Congress approved December 29, 1897, and the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration, decreed the 15th day of August, 1893, for the preservation of the fur seals.

2. Under the provisions of the act of Congress above referred to it is unlawful for any citizen or vessel of the United States to engage in pelagic sealing at any time or in any manner in the waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and including the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. You are therefore directed to seize any vessel of the United States found navigating the waters as above indicated, in violation of the law, and send the same to the nearest or most accessible port of the United States; upon arrival there to be surrendered to the custody of competent authority having jurisdiction.

3. Since, under the enactment by Congress above referred to and given in full in the Regulations, Fur-Seal Fishing Season of 1910 (copies of which will be sent to you under separate cover), vessels of the United States are prohibited absolutely from engaging in fur-seal fishing within the geographical limits prescribed, it follows that the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration (embodied in the regulations above mentioned) are applicable only to British vessels, and that fur-seal fishing is prohibited to subjects of Great Britain at any time or in any manner within a zone of 60 geographical miles around Pribilof Islands, inclusive of territorial waters, and from May 1 to July 31 in that part of the Pacific Ocean inclusive of Bering Sea, situated north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and eastward of the one hundred and eightieth degree of longitude from Greenwich; until it strikes the water boundary described in article 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Bering Straits.

4. You will arrange with the senior British naval officer at Unalaska engaged in carrying out the provisions of the award for the mutual delivery of vessels of the one country seized by officers of the other.

5. The following instructions in relation to the enforcement of the fur-seal regulations are issued for your guidance:

(*a*) The terms of the award apply only to vessels of the United States and Great Britain. The first duty of the boarding officer is to satify himself by an inspection of her documents as to the vessel's nationality. Vessels boarded beyond the legal jurisdiction of the United States and found to be of a nationality not included in the award are not to be searched or detained longer than is necessary to establish the fact.

(*b*) Long chases are not advisable. After a vessel is brought within reach of your guns if she does not bring to, display the national ensign and open fire. Fire one blank and one solid shot as a warning. If she still neglects to come to the wind, aim to hit, and use the force at your command to compel her to submit to being boarded and searched.

(*c*) A mere cursory or perfunctory search of vessels boarded is strictly forbidden. The search must be made by two commissioned officers, or one commissioned and one petty officer, and the necessary number of men who are required to remain on board until every part

of the vessel where a sealskin or a shotgun or rifle could be concealed has been searched.

(*d*) Boarding officers are required to exercise courtesy and forbearance and avoid all discussions. Offensive remarks or actions by members of the crew or others on board the vessel being searched are under no circumstances to be taken notice of.

(*e*) Should a sealskin be found on board that bears satisfactory evidence of having been shot within the Bering Sea, or killed in any manner within the area of the award in the Pacific Ocean between April 30 and August 1, or within 60 miles of the Pribilof Islands, at anytime, the vessel must be seized.

(*f*) Any vessel of Great Britain found within the area of the award during the closed season engaged in fur-seal fishing or fitted for fur-seal fishing, and not being provided with the special sealing license, is ordered seized. When any licensed sealing vessel of Great Britain is found within the area of the award during the closed season having on board a seal hunting outfit, she should be seized only if it be found that she was sealing or contemplating sealing within the area at that time. If the boarding officer finds evidence of the recent use of her boats and sealing outfit, or that they were in readiness for immediate use for taking fur seals, the matter should be closely investigated, and, if the circumstances warrant, she should be seized.

(*g*) Only sailing vessels are permitted to engage in fur-seal fishing during the period of time and in the waters in which fur-seal fishing is allowed. Any vessel propelled in whole or in part by steam or other motive power than sail, found so engaged, is ordered seized.

(*h*) If a vessel which appears to be a sealing vessel is found within the area during the period of time in which fur-seal fishing is forbidden, you will ascertain whether she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing; whether she was carried there by stress of weather, by a mistake during foggy or thick weather, or is there in the ordinary course of navigation, making the best of her way to any place. You must judge whether such vessel has been engaged in fur-seal fishing from the presence of sealskins or bodies of seals on board, or salt, and from other circumstances and indications.

(*i*) If such vessel is found outside of the area of the award and it is evident that she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing within said area, and has thus committed an offense, you will seize her. A vessel may violate the law by her boats fur-seal fishing within said area while the vessel herself is outside of said area.

(*j*) When you make a seizure you will at the time thereof draw up a declaration, in writing, stating the conditions on the seized vessel, the date and exact place of the seizure, giving latitude and longitude, and any additional data by which exact location may be determined and circumstances showing guilt. Arms or skins found (the cause of seizure), as well as all papers must be examined on board the seized vessel, and so marked as to be readily identified by the boarding officers when produced in court or elsewhere. This is important and must not be neglected.

(*k*) The seized vessel will be taken or sent, as soon as practicable, with all persons on board thereof, in charge of a sufficient force to insure delivery, together with witnesses and proofs, and the declaration of the officer making the seizure; if American, to the most convenient port of California, Oregon, Washington, or Alaska, and deliv-

ered to the officers of the United States court; and if British, to Unalaska, and there delivered to the senior British naval officer present, or taken to the most convenient port in British Columbia and delivered to the proper authorities of Great Britain, or deliver her to the commanding officer of any British vessel authorized to receive her.

(*l*) A signed and certified list of papers of the seized vessel will be delivered to the master thereof, and duplicate copy transmitted with the declarations.

(*m*) Any British vessel boarded and found not to be subject to seizure will be furnished with a copy of the Regulations, Fur-Seal Fishing Season of 1910.

(*n*) Each vessel so boarded shall be given a written certificate showing the date and place of examination, the number of fur-seal skins, and the number of bodies of seals on board. A duplicate of said certificate shall be preserved.

6. You will also cause careful attention to be given to the matter of preventing raids on the Pribilof Islands and guard as far as possible the 3-mile territorial limit, and to this end you will cause the agents of these islands to be frequently communicated with in order that the commanding officers of the cutters may avail themselves of any information in the possession of the agents touching the movements of marauding vessels. The agents on the islands have received instructions from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor that the cutters will cooperate with them to remove undesirable persons from the islands. You will arrange to have at least one vessel constantly stationed on patrol duty in the vicinity of the islands.

7. Prior to August 1 the efforts of the vessels should be directed toward preventing raids on the islands. After that date, when the Canadians are allowed to begin sealing, one of the vessels should share with the British cruiser on patrol the duty of maintaining the 60-mile zone. As the Japanese fleet, however, will probably be most active in August, the patrol of the zone should be subsidiary to the protection of the islands.

8. The patrol of Bering Sea should be continued until every sealer has left the sea, or until about October 15, and as the last cutter leaves the sea in the fall the commanding officer should make a special trip to the islands for the purpose of obtaining for the Government the latest information regarding the conditions thereon.

Respectfully,

C. D. HILLES, *Assistant Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

I concur in the above instructions.

——— ———, *Secretary.*

[Memorandum to Mr. Baldwin.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 6, 1910.

The attached letter from the Revenue-Cutter Service requests the decision of questions of an important legal nature involving considerable research through international law and British laws. In my

opinion this letter should be submitted to the solicitor of this department for appropriate action.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION,
U. S. PRACTICE CUTTER "ITASCA,"
Arundel Cove, Md., March 31, 1910.

The CAPTAIN COMMANDANT, U. S. REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Referring to the letter of the captain commandant, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, of the 30th instant (H. S. M.), requesting a detailed explanation of certain extracts from my report of October 28, 1909, as commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet, I have the honor to state as follows:

1. Relative to the recommendation, "That additional instructions be issued for the future guidance of the commanding officers of the ships of the Bering Sea Fleet with reference to Canadian schooners licensed for both fur-seal and sea-otter hunting." This recommendation was made because of the discovery by the United States revenue cutter *Bear*, about 15 miles north and east of Chirikof Island, on June 23, 1909, of three Canadian sealing schooners, the *Pescawha*, the *Thomas F. Bayard*, and the *Jessie*. All of these schooners were within the "area of the award," during the closed season, and were fitted out for hunting both fur seals and sea otters. Their licenses were issued at Victoria, British Columbia, in proper form for both fur-seal and sea-otter hunting. When boarded, their masters informed the boarding officers that they were hunting sea otters and not fur seals. As they were found to have firearms and ammunition on board and could easily have used their appliances in taking fur seals, after the departure of the *Bear*, it was deemed expedient by the commanding officer of that ship to have the arms put under seals, with written instructions that the seals were not to be broken while within the forbidden area during the closed season. The masters of the Canadian schooners protested against this action, but the arms were put under seals and the *Bear* proceeded on her way.

At a later date, in the discussion of various features of the patrol with the commanding officer of H. B. M. S. *Algerine*, he stated that his Government had always taken the attitude that firearms on Canadian vessels should not be sealed, and that the masters of these vessels would take the responsibilities of any detected violations of the terms of the agreement entered into by their respective Governments. In the cases above referred to, I was informed, through unofficial sources, that claims for damages against the United States would be instituted to cover the supposed loss sustained by inability to hunt sea otters, owing to the firearms having been put under seals, and it was to prevent a recurrence of such possible suits for damages that I recommended the issuance of more definite and specific instructions in the matter. It would seem that the Canadian Government should not, in good faith, issue licenses to the same vessel for hunting both the fur seal and the sea otter, but such being done, the question with which officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service

is concerned is the proper action to be taken when such a vessel is found within the restricted area during the closed season, equipped with firearms and ammunition, presumably hunting sea otters, but fitted for taking fur seals as well.

2. The recommendation, "That additional and specific instructions be issued relating to possible seizures of Japanese pelagic sealing schooners, where their small boats are hunting inside of territorial waters, while their vessels are outside of these waters," was made in order that commanding officers of ships of the Bering Sea Fleet might act with greater certainty in the matter. The question has arisen, Should a sealing schooner be seized and held because its small boats have been taken in the act of sealing illegally, the schooner being outside of territorial waters at that time? Such an instance occurred during the season of 1909. A small boat belonging to the Japanese schooner *Tenyu Maru* was seized by the commanding officer of the *Perry* within territorial waters on July 9, 1909, with the warm body of a dead fur seal in it. The boat and its crew were taken to the schooner (*Tenyu Maru*) and the latter, together with crew and outfit, was seized as being accessory, and therefore also guilty of a violation of the same law. No evidence was found on the schooner of illegal sealing by the men on board, and the master stated that he had warned his boats to keep outside of territorial waters. In such a position as this, the question arises, "Should the schooner as well as the small boat be seized?" It was for enlightenment upon that point that I recommended additional instructions.

3. The recommendation, "That information be furnished as to the powers of a United States commissioner to try and dispose of such a case as the above should a seizure be made, and the schooner be held as well as the small boats," was made in order that the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet might be better informed as to legal procedure in case of such a seizure as above cited. There was, during the season of 1909, a United States commissioner at Unalaska, but there was no United States attorney nor Federal court. A question arose as to the powers of the United States commissioner in trying the Japanese seized with the schooner *Tenyu Maru*. As the trial involved the forfeiture of the schooner and outfit, it seemed that the commissioner had not authority to try, under these conditions, and if found guilty, sentence the Japanese subjects; but if such authority were his, it would be a great saving of expense to the Government, as transportation to Valdez and back would be avoided. In the case of the *Tenyu Maru*, it was decided that the commissioner had not jurisdiction in the case, and the prisoners were sent to Valdez for trial. I have not been informed whether that action was necessary, and it would be of advantage to the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet to know whether the trial could properly have been held before the United States commissioner. In the case of the seizure of the six Japanese subjects in small boats near Walrus Island, of the Pribilof group on September 2, 1909, for illegally conducting sealing operations, the schooner to which they belonged escaped. As there was no forfeiture of the schooner involved, it was decided that the United States commissioner had jurisdiction and power to act in the case. They were tried, found guilty, and sentenced in the commissioner's court. I have not been notified whether this procedure was valid, and I think it would be of value to the commanding officer of

the fleet for the season of 1910 to be informed as to the validity of the proceedings in this case, as a guidance for future action under similar conditions, if the information be obtainable from the Department of Justice.

Respectfully,

W. V. E. JACOBS,
Captain, U. S. R. C. S., Commanding.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, August 2, 1910.

SIR: Referring to the letter of Capt. W. V. E. Jacobs, of the Revenue-Cutter Service, dated April 2, 1910, forwarded to this department by indorsement, and acknowledged under date of April 7, 1910, I have the honor to say that careful consideration has been given to the important questions raised by Capt. Jacobs. The questions, being of a legal nature, were referred to the solicitor for this department, and to the Attorney General. Copies of their opinions are inclosed herewith for your information, as well as copy of a letter this day addressed to the Secretary of State bearing on one of the questions involved. The department deems it unfortunate that it is precluded by law from approving all three of Capt. Jacobs's suggestions for additional instructions to the officers of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, and is correspondingly gratified that a favorable response may be made to one of his suggestions.

Respectfully,

(Signed) BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

MAY 24, 1910.

[In re certain recommendations made by the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet in his report dated Oct. 28, 1909, and explanations thereof in letter to the captain commandant, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Treasury Department, dated Mar. 31, 1910.]

In response to a request therefor from the captain commandant, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, Treasury Department, the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet, under date of March 31, 1910, in a letter addressed to the former officer, furnished a detailed explanation of three recommendations contained in his report of October 28, 1909. The letter in question is referred to the Department of Commerce and Labor by the Acting Secretary of the Treasury Department "for decision on these recommendations."

The recommendations will be considered in the order in which they are presented.

1. That additional instructions be issued for the future guidance of the commanding officers of the ships of the Bering Sea Fleet with reference to Canadian schooners licensed for both fur-seal and sea-otter hunting.

In explanation of the foregoing recommendation the commanding officer says:

This recommendation was made because of the discovery by the United States revenue cutter *Bear*, about 15 miles north and east of Chirikof Island, on June 23, 1909,

of three Canadian sealing schooners, the *Pescawha*, the *Thomas F. Bayard*, and the *Jessie*. All of these schooners were within the "area of the award" during the closed season and were fitted out for hunting both fur seals and sea otters. Their licenses were issued at Victoria, British Columbia, in proper form for both fur-seal and sea-otter hunting. When boarded, their masters informed the boarding officers that they were hunting sea otters and not fur seals. As they were found to have firearms and ammunition on board, and could easily have used their appliances in taking fur seals after the departure of the *Bear*, it was deemed expedient by the commanding officer of that ship to have the arms put under seals, with written instructions that the seals were not to be broken while within the forbidden area during the closed season. The masters of the Canadian schooners protested against this action, but the arms were put under seals, and the *Bear* proceeded on her way. At a later date, in the discussion of various features of the patrol with the commanding officer of His Britannic Majesty's ship *Algerine*, he stated that his Government had always taken the attitude that firearms on Canadian vessels should not be sealed, and that the masters of these vessels would take the responsibilities of any detected violations of the terms of the agreement entered into by the respective Governments. In the cases above referred to I was informed, through unofficial sources, that claims for damages against the United States would be instituted to cover the supposed loss sustained by inability to hunt sea otters owing to the firearms having been put under seals, and it was to prevent a recurrence of such possible suits for damages that I recommended the issuance of more definite and specific instructions in the matter. It would seem that the Canadian Government should not, in good faith, issue licenses to the same vessel for hunting both the fur seal and the sea otters, but such being done, the question with which officers of the Revenue-Cutter Service is concerned is the proper action to be taken when such a vessel is found within the restricted area during the closed season, equipped with firearms and ammunition, presumably hunting sea otters, but fitted for taking fur seals as well.

Article 2 of the award of the tribunal of arbitration at Paris, under the treaty between the United States and Great Britain concerning the preservation of the fur seals, which was concluded in 1892, reads as follows (3 Comp. Stat., 3004):

The two governments shall forbid their citizens and subjects, respectively, to kill, capture, or pursue, in any manner whatever, during the season extending each year from the first of May to the thirty-first of July, both inclusive, the fur seals on the high sea, in the part of the Pacific Ocean, inclusive of the Bering Sea, which is situated to the north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude, and eastward of the one hundred and eightieth degree of longitude from Greenwich till it strikes the water boundary described in article one of the treaty of eighteen hundred and sixty-seven between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Berings Straits.

Article 5 is:

Each sailing vessel authorized to fish for fur seals must be provided with a special license issued for that purpose by its Government, and shall be required to carry a distinguishing flag to be prescribed by its Government.

And article 6 provides that:

The use of nets, firearms, and explosives shall be forbidden in the fur-seal fishing. This restriction shall not apply to shotguns when such fishing takes place outside of Behring Sea during the season when it may be lawfully carried on.

Both the United States (act of Apr. 6, 1894, 28 Stat., 53) and Great Britain (Law Reports, the Statutes, 57 Victorias, sec. 1, Fed. Stat. Anno., 420) have enacted provisions to carry into effect the award. These provisions in each case are directed against the citizens of the country enacting the law. And each Government has, moreover, by suitable legislation, authorized the seizure, by duly commissioned officers of the other, of any of its vessels or citizens offending against the terms of its own enactment. (28 Stat. 55; British Order in Council, Apr. 30, 1894.)

By section 10 of the act of April 6, 1894 (3 Comp. Stat., 3009), it is further provided that:

> If any licensed vessel found in the waters to which this act applies, having on board apparatus or implements suitable for taking seals, but forbidden then and there to be used, it shall be presumed that the vessel in the one case and apparatus or implements in the other was or were used in violation of this act until it is otherwise sufficiently proved.

While a similar presumption was created by the British act of 1891, it was omitted from the act of 1894, and, as a result of this and other questions, there has been not a little difficulty in the enforcement of the regulations. (Moore's Int. Dig., vol. 1, p. 922.) The lack of such a presumption in the British law was commented upon by Sir Julian Pauncefote, Great Britain's ambassador to the United States, in a communication to Mr. Olney, Secretary of State, in 1896. It was there pointed out that the British order in council only empowers United States cruisers to seize British vessels contravening the British act of Parliament, which contains no provision similar to that in section 10 of the United States act above set forth, and that, therefore, United States naval officers have no power to seize British vessels merely on the ground that they have sealing apparatus or implements on board. (For. Rel., 1896, p. 257.)

The effect of the Paris award was to deny the jurisdiction claimed by the United States over Bering Sea (La Ninfa, 75 Fed. Rep., 513), and, as has been previously stated, the act of Congress giving effect to the award in terms applies to citizens of the United States. It is also to be noted that while by article 6 of the award the use of firearms is to be forbidden during the closed season, and while each Government in pursuance thereof has enacted such a provision, yet outside the presumption created by section 10 above referred to, neither in the award nor in the legislation of the two nations is there any express provision with respect to the mere possession of arms. The question of providing for the sealing of arms found upon vessels during the closed season has been the subject of considerable correspondence between the United States and Great Britain. The former has uniformly insisted that the spirit of the regulations of the tribunal of arbitration demands that vessels should not be permitted within the area of the award with arms and equipment for taking seals, while Great Britain on the other hand has been equally insistent in opposing any agreement to that end. In a letter of instructions dated May 10, 1897, from the Secretary of State to Mr. Hay, ambassador to Great Britain, in which there was an extended discussion of the Bering Sea fur-seal fisheries, it was stated:

> The detailed enforcement of the regulations has further developed on the part of the British Government a strange misconception of the true spirit and intent of the arbitrators. Under article 6 of the regulations the use of firearms in Bering Sea was prohibited, and to enforce that prohibition it was agreed between the two Governments for the year 1894 that sealing vessels might have their arms and ammunition placed under seal. But on May 11, 1895, although this Government had every reason to believe from the order in council that the British Government had given its concurrence to the arrangement, the British Ambassador gave notice that his Government would not renew the arrangement as to the sealing of arms for the coming season, and defended its action on the ground that the possession of arms, etc., by a sealing vessel was "not forbidden by the award regulations."
>
> This tardy action of the British Government in refusing to renew the arrangement of 1894 led to much trouble and inconvenience in connection with the patrol of Bering Sea. The British Government made grievous complaint against the severe measures

of search resorted to by the American cruisers, which gave rise to a lengthy correspondence. On July 2, 1896, Secretary Olney submitted a proposition to put an end to the controversy by an examination of vessels entering Bering Sea and an inspection by a representative of the United States at British Columbian ports of all skins taken in Bering Sea, to discover whether or not firearms were used, but this proposition was not accepted. A further attempt was made by Secretary Olney to procure some agreement for the season of 1897, when it was urged that American vessels frequenting Bering Sea were required to have their arms sealed, and on returning to their home ports their skins were carefully inspected, while Her Majesty's Government refuses to enforce the provision as to arms and declines the inspection of skins—measures which this Government regards as "absolutely essential for preventing the unlawful destruction of the seals." Nevertheless another season has been entered upon without any settlement of this vexed question. (S. Doc. 40, 50th Cong., 2d sess.; and see also as to the enforcement of the regulations, For. Rel., 1895, 1, 590–592, 615, 616, 643–660; For. Rel., 1896, 255–281; For. Rel., 1897, 258–289.)

In 22 Op. At. Gen., 64, discussing the provision in section 10 of the act of Congress to which reference has been made, Attorney General Briggs said:

* * * that the mere possession of apparatus for killing seals upon a vessel in the North Pacific or Bering Sea established a presumption that article 6 had been violated. In other words, given the presence of a shotgun fit for killing seals, it was unimportant whether the gun itself or circumstances otherwise established a reasonable suspicion of the actual use of guns in killing seals.

This was a principle which Congress saw fit to apply to American vessels, and these naval officers seem to have presumed it to be equally applicable to British * * *.

But the principle was not applicable to British vessels in the absence of a British statute. Without that it was improper to seize a vessel, whatever guns were on board, unless, in the opinion of the seizing officer, there was good reason to believe she had been actually guilty of violating article 6. The vessel was entitled to the officer's deliberate opinion as to her guilt or innocence.

Unless the United States can, notwithstanding the absence of a mutual agreement to that end, board British vessels and seal arms there found, it is perfectly manifest that any attempt to enforce the regulations of the Paris tribunal in the spirit in which they were written is certain to be ineffectual, besides, by reason of the presumption in section 10 of the act of Congress, resulting in a most unjust discrimination against vessels of the United States. As against the refusal of Great Britain to enter into an agreement looking to the sealing of guns, in no less degree than as against her action in licensing vessels for the seal fisheries in the circumstances described by the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet in his letter, the principle of contra bonos mores suggested by Minister Phelps in the Bering Sea controversy might, it seems to me, well be invoked with a view to prevent the undertaking to effectuate the real purpose of the Paris award from becoming flagrantly abortive. At all events, as was said by the court in the case of the *Alexander* (60 Fed. Rep., 914) with respect to foreign vessels hunting sea otters in the waters of Alaska, such conduct on the part of Great Britain can "hardly be considered good manners."

Upon careful reflection, however, I am of opinion that the points raised by the first recommendation of the commander of the fleet are to be regarded as unprovided for in the present state of the law, and that the doctrine announced by the Attorney General as above indicated is equally applicable thereto. For this reason the department is, in my judgment, without power to legally instruct the officers of the Bering Sea Fleet to seal arms found on British vessels in the manner described by the commanding officer in the explanation of his first recommendation.

In conclusion, it is deemed proper to suggest that it would be most expedient and proper to bring the subject to the attention of the State Department, in order that there may be a renewal of negotiations calculated to secure some appropriate and adequate agreement between the United States and Great Britain by means of which the present extremely unsatisfactory conditions may be remedied.

2. That additional and specific instructions be issued relating to possible seizures of Japanese pelagic sealing schooners, where their small boats are hunting inside of territorial waters while their vessels are outside of these waters.

Of the foregoing recommendation in the explanation of the commanding officer it is said it—

was made in order that commanding officers of ships of the Bering Sea Fleet might act with greater certainty in the matter. The question has arisen, Should a sealing schooner be seized and held because its small boats have been taken in the act of sealing illegally, the schooner being outside of territorial waters at that time? Such an instance occurred during the season of 1909. A small boat belonging to the Japanese schooner *Tenyu Maru* was seized by the commanding officer of the *Perry* within territorial waters on July 9, 1909, with the warm body of a dead fur seal in it. The boat and its crew were taken to the schooner (*Tenyu Maru*) and the latter, together with crew and outfit, was seized as being accessory, and therefore also guilty of a violation of the same law. No evidence was found on the schooner of illegal sealing by the men on board, and the master stated that he had warned his boats to keep outside of territorial waters. In such a position as this the question arises, Should the schooner as well as the small boat be seized? It was for enlightenment upon that point that I recommended additional instructions.

That a vessel which is carrying on illegal seal fishing by the use of small boats, which are found within territorial waters, although the vessel itself is without those waters, is as amenable to the law as if the vessel herself were within the limits described, there can, in my opinion, be little if any doubt.

Russia in 1888 seized the British Columbian schooner *Avannah* for taking seals in Bering Sea. It appeared "that the crew of the schooner were carrying on operations in canoes between the schooner and the land." Lord Salisbury, discussing the case, is quoted as saying that Her Majesty's Government were "of opinion that, even if the *Avannah* at the time of the seizure was herself outside the 3-mile territorial limit, the fact that she was, by means of her boats, carrying on fishing within Russian waters without the prescribed license, warranted her seizure and confiscation according to the provisions of the municipal law regulation the use of these waters." (Moore, Int. Arg., vol. 1, p. 824, 825.)

In United States *v. The Jane Gray* (77 Fed. Rep., 908), it was declared that a vessel and her cargo, etc., are subject to forfeiture if her boats go inside the prohibited area (60 miles of the Pribilof Islands) and take seal there, even though she herself remain just outside the line. Among other things the court in that case said:

Nor would it make any difference in law whether, at the time of killing, the schooner were just outside the prohibited area, while her boats were inside. If the boats were along inside, and killed seals therein, the schooner, her tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo, are, in law, just as much subject to condemnation and forfeiture. Otherwise it would result that the statute would prove impractical in its operation, and the protection to fur seals a delusion. By far the greater part of seal hunting is done from the small boats. This was admitted by the captain of the schooner himself.

In the *Alexander* (60 Fed. Rep., 914), which involved a question as to the killing of sea otter, the court used the following pertinent language:

Now, the question upon which this case turns is whether the *Alexander* was "engaged in violation" of this statute or not. Webster defines "engage" as: "To embark; to take a part; to devote attention and effort." It is admitted that the *Alexander* was engaged in sea-otter hunting. That was her business on the cruise. These animals are not usually killed from the deck of a schooner. To successfully hunt them it is necessary to send out the hunters in small boats or bidarkas, the latter always being used by the Aleuts. I think where a vessel is out on a hunting voyage her masters, officers, and crew, or hunters on board, are all to be considered as engaged in a common enterprise or business, and every necessary action for the effectuation of the common purpose constitutes an essential part of the res gestae of any violation of law committed by one of the party, and the vessel must be held responsible for such violation. If the *Alexander* was in Alaskan waters while the boats were out under control of her master, killing said animals, or received their catch while in such waters, then she violated the statute.

The last-mentioned case was on appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals (75 Fed. Rep., 519), reversed, expressly upon the ground, however, that the killing was done outside the territorial waters. It was declared that by the award of the arbitrators under the treaty between the United States and Great Britain it was settled that the United States have no jurisdiction to forbid the killing of fur-bearing animals in the waters of the Bering Sea more than 3 miles from the shore. The action of the Circuit Court of Appeals does not, however, in my opinion, detract in the slightest from the principle stated by the lower court, as above set forth, with respect to the culpability of all persons engaged in a common enterprise, notwithstanding they do not all personally participate in the culminating act of unlawfulness. Hence, I can see no objection to advising the officers of the Bering Sea Fleet accordingly. That is to say, that a vessel should be seized when it is their deliberate opinion from all the circumstances that the vessel is a party to the illegal sealing, although the tangible evidence is furnished by small boats found within territorial waters, while the vessel itself is without these limits, as described by the commanding officer in the explanation of his second recommendation.

3. That information be furnished as to the powers of a United States commissioner to try and dispose of such a case as the above should a seizure be made and the schooner be held as well as the small boats.

This recommendation, it is said, "was made in order that the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet might be better informed as to legal procedure in case of such a seizure as above cited." The explanation continues as follows:

There was during the season of 1909 a United States commissioner at Unalaska, but there was no United States attorney nor Federal court. A question arose as to the powers of the United States commissioner in trying the Japanese seized with the schooner *Tenyu Maru*. As the trial involved the forfeiture of the schooner and outfit, it seemed that the commissioner had not authority to try, under these conditions, and if found guilty, sentence the Japanese subjects, but if such authority were his, it would be a great saving of expense to the Government, as transportation to Valdez and back would be avoided. In the case of the *Tenyu Maru* it was decided that the commissioner had not jurisdiction in the case, and the prisoners were sent to Valdez for trial. I have not been informed whether that action was necessary, and it would be of advantage to the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet to know whether the trial could properly have been held before the United States commissioner. In the case of the seizure of the six Japanese subjects in small boats near Walrus Island, of the Pribilof group, on September 2, 1909, for illegally conducting sealing operations, the schooner to which they belonged escaped. As there was no forfeiture

of the schooner involved, it was decided that the United States commissioner had jurisdiction and power to act in the case. They were tried, found guilty, and sentenced in the commissioner's court. I have not been notified whether this procedure was valid, and I think it would be of value to the commanding officer of the fleet for the season of 1910 to be informed as to the validity of the proceedings in this case as a guidance for future action under similar conditions, if the information be obtainable from the Department of Justice.

Sections 1 and 2 of the criminal code of Alaska (act Mar. 3, 1899, 2 Supp. R. S., 1003) provides:

SEC. 1. That the District of Alaska consists of that portion of the territory of the United States ceded by Russia by the treaty of March thirtieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven.

SEC. 2. That the crimes and offenses defined in this act, committed within the District of Alaska, shall be punished as herein provided.

Section 173, title 1 (2 Supp. R. S., 103) of the criminal code is in part as follows:

That no person shall kill any otter, mink, martin, sable, or fur-seal, or other fur-bearing animal within the limits of (1) Alaska Territory, or in the waters thereof; and every person guilty thereof shall, for each offense, be fined not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more than six months, or both; and all vessels, their tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo found engaged in violation of this section shall be forfeited; * * *

Section 184, title 12 (Supp. R. S., 1034), declares all crimes other than those "punishable with death, or which is or may be punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary," to be misdemeanors. And by section 6 of the act of June 6, 1900, entitled "An act making further provision for a civil government for Alaska, and for other purposes" (2 Supp. R. S., 1194), district judges are authorized to appoint commissioners in and for that district. This section also contains the provision that:

The commissioners shall be ex officio justices of the peace, * * * and shall perform all the duties and exercise all the powers, civil and criminal, imposed or conferred on the United States commissioners by the general laws of the United States and the special laws applicable to the district.

By section 410 of the criminal code it is provided that a justice's court shall have jurisdiction as follows:

First. Larceny, where the punishment therefor may be imprisonment in the county jail or by fine.

Second. Assault, or assault and battery, not charged to have been committed with intent to commit a felony, or in the course of a riot, or with a dangerous weapon, or upon a public officer in the discharge of his duties.

Third. Of any misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail, or by fine, or by both.

By section 1, title 3, of the civil code (2 Supp. R. S., 1369) it is provided that—

it shall be the duty of the judge of each division of the district court for the District of Alaska * * * to divide the respective divisions of the district into precincts, etc.

And by section 2 of the same title it is provided that—

The boundaries of the precincts shall be so established that, considering distance and means of travel, public convenience may be promoted by requiring the appointment of commissioners by the division of the district court most readily accessible to the area embraced in the precinct. Precincts shall bear such name or number as the court in the order of creating it may designate. The precinct lines shall only be regarded for purposes of convenience in fixing identity, but shall not be limitations on the jurisdiction of commissioners as established by law.

There appears to be no express limitation in the criminal code with respect to the jurisdiction of justices' courts, territorially, although section 704, title 2, of the civil code (2 Supp. R. S., 1318) contains the further provision that—

> In an action in a justice's court to recover a penalty or ferfeiture given by statute the cause of action or some part thereof must have arisen within the precinct where the action is commenced, or upon a lake, river, or other water bordering upon such precinct and opposite thereto; but otherwise than this the jurisdiction of justice's court does not depend upon where the cause arose, provided that the defendant shall reside in the district where the action is commenced, or personal service can be had on the defendant in such precinct; and if the defendant do not reside in the district the action may be commenced in the precinct in which the plaintiff resides.

From a careful consideration of the foregoing provisions I am of opinion that under the statutes relating to Alaska a United States commissioner as ex officio justice of the peace has jurisdiction of cases against persons charged with a violation of section 173 of the criminal code.

The jurisdiction ascribed to a commissioner, as above indicated, is, however, in my opinion, necessarily restricted to the territorial waters of Alaska. This jurisdiction should not, therefore, be confounded with the jurisdiction as to violations of the act of 1894, giving effect to the Paris award, which jurisdiction for obvious reasons vests in the district court, or of the act of 1897, prohibiting the killing of fur seals in the North Pacific Ocean (3 Comp. St., 3011). The forfeiture provided for by action 173 of the criminal code remains to be considered.

Section 698, title 2, of the civil code (2 Supp. R. S., 1317), is as follows:

> The judicial power in the District of Alaska is vested in a district, in commissioners exercising the power of probate courts, and in commissioners as ex officio justices of the peace.

Section 699 reads:

> The district court is a court of general jurisdiction, civil and criminal, and also shall have admiralty jurisdiction.

Section 702 provides that:

> A justice's court has jurisdiction, but not exclusive, of the following actions:
> First. For the recovery of money or damages only, when the amount claimed does not exceed one thousand dollars;
> Second. For the recovery of specific personal property, when the value of the property claimed and the damages for the detention do not exceed one thousand dollars:
> Third. For the recovery of any penalty or forfeiture, whether given by statute or arising out of contract, not exceeding one thousand dollars;
> Fourth. Also, to give judgment without action upon the confession of the defendant for any of the cases specified in this section, except for a penalty or forfeiture imposed by statute.

And section 703 reads as follows:

> The jurisdiction conferred by the last section does not extend, however—
> First. To an action in which the title to real property shall come in question;
> Second. To an action for false imprisonment, libel, slander, malicious prosecution, criminal conversation, seduction, upon a promise to marry, in actions of an equitable nature, or in admiralty causes.

The provisions last above set forth considered in connection with section 704 of title 2 of the civil code clearly show, in my opinion, that Congress did not intend to confer upon the justices' court juris-

diction of actions for the forfeiture of vessels, tackle, etc., as prescribed by section 173 of the criminal code. Such actions are civil causes of Admiralty jurisdiction, which from the language used in the provisions referred to, is plainly reserved to the district court. (*The General Pinkney*, 5 Cr., 281; *La Vengeance*, 3 Dall., 297; *The Betsey* and *Charlotte*, 4 Cr., 442; Lees *v.* United States, 150 U. S., 476; Benedict's Admiralty, secs. 602 and 606a.)

In conclusion, however, I deem it proper to call attention to section 4 of title 3 of the civil code (2 Supp. R. S., 1370), which treats of commissioner's precincts. The section reads as follows:

> The Attorney General may, from time to time, make such rules and regulations, not in conflict with law, as he may deem necessary to insure the efficient administration of the law and to avoid conflicts of jurisdiction or of officials in the district.

It seems to me, therefore, that it would be peculiarly appropriate to submit the question as to the jurisdiction of the commissioners to the Attorney General for determination.

Respectfully submitted.

(Sgd.) CHARLES EARL, *Solicitor.*

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

Approved and referred to the Bureau of Fisheries.

(Sgd.) BEN. S. CABLE,
Assistant Secretary.

[Copy.]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
Washington, July 15, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: Under date of June 3, 1910, you transmitted for my consideration a memorandum prepared by the solicitor of your department, Mr. Charles Earl, dated May 24, 1910, in respect to the fur-seal situation in Alaskan waters.

As the first two questions discussed in the memorandum involve our relations with foreign powers, I deem it unwise to render a formal opinion thereon. Suffice it to say, for your personal advice, that I concur in the views expressed by Mr. Earl.

The third question relates to the jurisdiction of United States commissioners in Alaska, as ex officio justices of the peace, of violations of section 173 of the criminal code, where a forfeiture of the vessel is involved. In view of the fact that the jurisdiction of a justice's court is limited by section 410 to misdemeanors punishable by fine and imprisonment, and the exception from its jurisdiction by section 703 of Admiralty causes, as pointed out by Mr. Earl, I think it clear that commissioners would not have jurisdiction in the case suggested.

Respectfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM R. HARR,
Acting Attorney General.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, September 21, 1910.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary, I have the honor to transmit the following extract from a report received from Senior Capt. D. P. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, dated August 31, 1910:

On the order of the United States commissioner, the *Manning* brought down the boats, guns, ammunition, and equipments of the three boats which landed on St. Paul Island, but not the sealskins found in one of the boats which Mr. Lembkey states were thrown on the beach and had rotted. The United States commissioner has a deposition from one of the guards that these skins were salted and stored in the salt house. Capt. Carden reports that Special Agent Lembkey at first declined to turn over these things, but afterwards did so. A copy of his letter to First Lieut. O'Malley, in his capacity as deputy United States marshal, is appended to Capt. Carden's report, a copy of which is herewith inclosed. It is not understood why Mr. Lembkey did not send the boats, guns, skins, etc., with the prisoners when he delivered them to the *Manning* to be brought to this port for trial, and much less why he should hesitate to obey the order of the commissioner to produce them, as even a conviction of unlawful landing under section 5 of the act involves no forfeiture of these things. They, therefore, remain the property of the prisoners or the vessel to which they belong, to be returned to them when directed by the court. The United States marshal is the proper custodian of such things. The boat which landed at Northeast Point and the guns, ammunition, skins, etc., in it were necessary as evidence in the prosecution of the complaint of illegal sealing, which had been made against the men. In this instance the case was not pressed, not because of the absence of these things, but because the evidence of the witnesses was not deemed sufficiently positive. However, had their evidence been satisfactory, the case against the defendants and the schooner to which they belong would have been materially weakened, if not lost, because of the failure to produce the boats, guns, and skins as evidence. The skins should not have been thrown on the beach and allowed to rot, but should have been carefully preserved.

The matter is brought to the attention of the department merely to provide against a repetition of it. The question as to whether a United States commissioner has jurisdiction over the islands is trivial compared with the desirability of producing evidence necessary to secure a conviction.

The copy of the letter of the agent in charge of the seal fisheries, referred to in the extract, is transmitted herewith.

Respectfully,

A. PIATT ANDREW,
Assistant Secretary.

[Copy of copy.]

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *August 16, 1910.*

Mr. W. A. O'MALLY,
United States Deputy Marshal.

SIR: Replying to your verbal demand, under order of the United States commissioner at Unalaska for the delivery to you for the purposes of evidence, of the boats, arms, ammunition, etc., which were brought ashore by the Japanese now held at Unalaska, Alaska, for a violation of section 5 of the act of April 21, 1910, which forbids landing upon this reservation, I have to inform you, that, these islands being a special Government reservation under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, are outside the jurisdiction of the said commissioner or any other judicial or quasi-judicial officer, and that any legal process of said commissioner does not

run therein. Your demand, therefore, for the articles mentioned, is hereby refused.

It may be stated parenthetically, that the articles mentioned are unnecessary for establishing the illegal landing of these Japanese as native witnesses of such landing have already been furnished and are now within the command of the commissioner's court.

Respectfully,

(Signed) W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge of Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 22, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

SIR: I have been shown a letter dated the 21st ultimo from the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury containing an extract from a report dated August 31, 1910, of Capt. D. P. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, in which criticism is made of my action in connection with the arrest and prosecution of 11 Japanese who landed on St. Paul Island July 30 and 31, last.

The circumstances attending the landing of these Japanese follow:

On July 30 at 8 a. m. a small boat containing four Japanese landed at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island. The occupants dragged their boat up on the sand beach and were proceeding in the direction of the watch house there, when they were taken in charge by the native guard. Upon examination by the native guard, the boat was found to contain four sealskins, two boxes of shotgun shells, two shotguns, together with several sealing knives, two sails, and eight oars. The occupants of the boat stated that they were from the *Hoko Maru*. They were brought to the village, a distance of 12 miles from the place where they landed.

On the same day another small boat from the same schooner landed on the sand beach near Lukanin rookery on St. Paul Island. The occupants were four Japanese, who were taken in charge by native watchmen and brought to the village. This boat contained two shotguns, one case of shotgun ammunition, one compass and a complement of oars and sails.

On July 31, at about 3 a. m., another small boat landed at Rocky Point, near the wreck of the *Perry*, the occupants of which, three Japanese, were intercepted several hours later while wandering about the island. This boat contained the usual oars, sails, and guns and came from the *Domei Maru*.

All three of these boats' crews alleged that they were blown away from their respective schooners by a gale, while their vessels were within a few miles of the island. No evidence could be obtained to prove that these men landed upon the island to kill seals, and no charge of that nature could be substantiated. However, they had landed upon the islands without authority from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and for this reason were liable to fine and imprisonment under section 5 of the act of April 21, 1910, which forbids unauthorized landings upon the reservation. As the *Manning* was at

anchor at St. Paul at this time I wrote a letter to Capt. Carden, of that vessel, detailing the facts and requesting the removal of the Japanese from the islands and their transportation to Unalaska for commitment. A copy of my letter to Capt. Carden is attached hereto, marked "Inclosure 1."

In reply, in a letter of which a copy is attached also, marked "Inclosure 2," Capt. Carden suggested that the Japanese could be tried at the islands, as the captains of the *Perry*, *Tahoma*, and *Manning* were, respectively, United States commissioners, and the first officer of each vessel was a deputy United States marshal. This was the first knowledge of this fact that I had received.

I at once went aboard the *Manning* and conferred personally with Capt. Carden, heartily indorsing his proposition to try the prisoners at St. Paul, and offering, at Capt. Carden's suggestion, to prepare the necessary warrants, informations, and other legal processes. Upon my return to the island from the ship I did prepare such papers.

Capt. Carden told me, however, that his suggestion to try the men at St. Paul would be contingent upon the favorable indorsement of Capt. Quinan, of the *Tahoma*, the senior captain. After a conference with Capt. Quinan, at which I was present, the latter stated his opinion that the Japanese should not be tried by an officer of the Revenue-Cutter Service at the islands, as that would seem to be somewhat summary; that they should be tried at Unalaska, where they could have the benefit of counsel and would be brought before a regular commissioner.

The prisoners therefore were placed on the *Manning* at the time of her sailing for Unalaska, together with four native witnesses who apprehended the Japanese. It was not advisable for myself or an assistant agent to accompany the Japanese at that time, but I designated one of the natives, an intelligent man who spoke good English, to act as complaining witness. It was thoroughly understood at the time that a charge of attempt to kill seals could not be proven; that the only chance of conviction was upon a charge of illegal landing, to prove which the testimony of witnesses was the best evidence, and that to substantiate this charge the sealing gear, sealskins, and boats were unnecessary.

Upon the arrival of the prisoners and witnesses at Unalaska the commissioner, Brown, presented an order to Lieut. O'Mally as deputy marshal to bring to the court the boats, arms, sealskins, and other contents of the boats. Upon presentation of this order by Mr. O'Mally he was informed by me that the commissioner at Unalaska had no jurisdiction over the Pribilof Islands, which was a reservation under control of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and that for this reason the articles mentioned would not be delivered to him by me. I stated further that witnesses to prove the illegal landing were already in attendance upon the court and that the boats and other gear were superfluous as evidence to prove illegal landing and therefore unnecessary. I furnished Mr. O'Mally a letter embodying my views, a copy of which is attached hereto, marked "Inclosure 3."

Mr. O'Mally left the island after this interview without the articles requested. Two days afterwards, however, after a conference with Capt. Carden, in which that gentleman stated to me that Capt. Foley was anxious for a conviction and that it would be unfriendly to deprive him of any evidence that might tend to convict, I delivered

the boats and gear to the Revenue-Cutter Service, through Lieut. O'Mally two days after Mr. O'Mally, as deputy marshal, had made application for them, with the result as stated before.

I refused to recognize the order of the commissioner at Unalaska because I believed and do still believe that he has no jurisdiction over the Pribilof Islands Reservation, on which it is unlawful for any person to land or remain without the authority of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. (Sec. 5, act Apr. 21, 1910.)

I have been annoyed by the action of this Commissioner Brown for several years. On June 24, 1909, I received a rather curt letter from him directing me to make provision on the islands for a resident of Unalaska who previously had lived on St. George. I replied that the Pribilof Islands did not come within the scope of action of himself or any other judicial or quasi-judicial officer. A copy of his letter to me and of my reply is attached hereto, marked "Inclosure 4."

In October, 1909, after some Japanese in small boats had been arrested by Mr. Judge for sealing within the 3-mile limit, and after these prisoners with native witnesses had been sent to Unalaska for trial, and after the prisoners had been tried, convicted, and sentenced, Commissioner Brown sent a formal order to Mr. Judge, at St. Paul, for the delivery of the boats and gear belonging to these Japanese, on the ground that the clerk of the court was the proper custodian thereof. Mr. Judge replied that the property was part and parcel of the schooner; that the schooner, with her paraphernalia, could be forfeited only through proceedings against the schooner; and that until such proceedings were instituted the agents on the islands were the proper custodians. The third order from the commissioner is the one in connection with which Capt. Foley has made his report.

I did not deliver the four sealskins found in the boat at Northeast Point for the reasons that they were 12 miles from the village; that I did not know their exact location; that I believed at the time of Mr. O'Mally's visit that they had been left on the beach at the place where the boat landed. The guard at Northeast Point stated to me that these sealskins had been left on the beach. From what I learned afterwards, I believe that the guard afterwards brought these skins to the Government salt house at Northeast Point and salted them there; that they became merged with the island catch and were shipped to London with the island skins. Upon counting out the skins from this salt house at the time of shipment, Mr. Judge informed me that the number counted out was four in excess of the number counted in.

As the matter stands, the prisoners were sent to Unalaska for trial, with proper witnesses; the boats and gear, although refused to the marshal at Unalaska, were delivered to the Revenue-Cutter Service and taken to Unalaska, and the prisoners convicted. Therefore everything asked for by the commissioner, except the sealskins, was furnished.

Just what Capt. Foley has to complain about I am unable to discover. It would seem, from reading carefully his report, that while he did not consider these boats, etc., necessary for evidence, he was anxious to have them on hand to return to the Japanese convicts after they had served their sentences. And that seems to be the basis of his complaint with regard to the sealskins.

I have acted upon the principle that it should be made as disagreeable as possible for Japanese to land upon the islands, in order to deter them from coming there in numbers. If they came in, they forfeited their boats whether they were sent to jail or not. To deliver this gear to them after conviction, and furthermore to transport this gear over 200 miles in order to deliver it to them, looks very like placing a premium upon landing on the islands from which we desire to keep these Japanese farthest away. As a matter of policy I believe these boats and gear brought ashore on the islands should be kept there unless essential as evidence.

The captain, in my opinion, is in error in ascribing among the duties of the agents that of "carefully preserving" the skins which may happen to be found in the boats of those sealers guilty of illegal landing upon the islands. The Pribilof herd of seals is being exterminated by the killing in the sea of breeders. This Government has taken every possible precaution to curtail this killing and to discourage the practice. It provides arms and ammunition on the islands and an efficient patrol about the islands for this purpose. It prescribes penalties for killing seals in United States territory, forbids unauthorized landings on the islands, and prevents its citizens from furnishing to foreign sealers anything of use in the operation of a pelagic schooner on the high seas. After placing by statute and regulation every possible obstacle in the way of killing seals in the water, to remove sealskins from boats belonging to sealers landing on the islands without authority; to arrest the men, but place the sealskins in salt with the island catch of skins; to use the employees of the Government in caring for and curing these skins; and, after the men were convicted of violating the law by unauthorized landing, to hand back the cured skins, enhanced in value through the efforts of the Government, to be sold in London at increased profit to these wrongdoers, would seem to me the very climax of maladministration.

The possession of skins by Japanese sealers within the 3-mile limit should be deemed prima facie evidence of illegal sealing; the landing of these men was in defiance of the law, and their conviction renders them obnoxious to its penalties, and certainly should disqualify them to make any claim for the boat which furnished them the means of committing an infraction of the law and for the arms and sealskins which were in their possession when apprehended. To give up the skins to these culprits after enhancing their value would be a stultification of the Government's action in trying and convicting them, and as much a violation of the act of December 29, 1897, as to furnish supplies with which to continue pelagic operations. If not actually in contravention of law, it would be so inconsistent with the spirit of the law as to appear absurd and ridiculous.

The suggestion is made that the question whether the United States commissioner has jurisdiction on the seal islands is a trivial one. I think I may justly challenge that view. The question is the reverse of trivial. The Congress has considered it so important as to provide that the islands shall be a special Government reservation and that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall have sole charge of that reservation. Under the Secretary, the agent is primarily the guardian and protector of the seals. Under that provision he certainly should be the judge of what evidence and what articles and appliances shall be submitted in the trial of persons charged with invading the islands.

It is clearly the purpose of the law to remit the islands altogether to the care of the agent under the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. It would be ridiculous to assert that the authority of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, when exercised with respect to a special Government reservation over which he is given exclusive control by the Congress, should be rendered ineffective by the order of a United States commissioner.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 7, 1911.

SIR: By indorsement under date of November 14, 1910, the letter to Senior Capt. D. P. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, in reply to the letter of Agent W. I. Lembkey, addressed to the Commissioner of Fisheries, under date of October 22, 1910, was referred to this department.

After a consideration of the points involved in the controversy between Capt. Foley and Mr. Lembkey, it appears to this department that Mr. Lembkey was justified in assuming that the boats and their contents taken from the Japanese who landed on St. Paul Island the latter part of July last, would not be needed as evidence to convict such Japanese on the charge of landing in violation of section 5 of the act of April 21, 1910. He was not, however, justified in assuming that the jurisdiction of the commissioner at Unalaska did not extend over the Pribilof Islands, and he was not justified in refusing to deliver the articles in question when demanded by a deputy United States marshal on an order by the commissioner at Unalaska. The record does not show that the Japanese referred to were charged with any offense other than landing on St. Paul Island, and although it is not seen how the production of the boats and contents could add to the evidence of such landing, Mr. Lembkey did, two days later, surrender the property, with the exception of the sealskins, which had been salted down with the Government supply. In thus surrendering the property demanded, Mr. Lembkey did the proper thing. It is believed, however, that Capt. Foley was in error in assuming that the four sealskins should have been seized and destroyed. See the opinion of the Attorney General, under date of February 8, 1910. (28 Op. At. Gen., 173–175.)

The agents of this department in charge of the seal business in Alaska will be instructed to recognize the jurisdiction of United States commissioners over the Pribilof Islands and to respect all orders issued by a United States commissioner and properly served. If any commissioner capriciously or without justification persists in issuing orders for the production of property not needed as evidence, or not involved in any case coming before him, our agents will report the matter to the department, so that it may, if deemed advisable, be taken up with the Department of Justice. Further, the officers and agents of this department will be instructed to avoid, in every reasonable way, any friction with the officers and agents of any other

department, and it will be impressed upon them that the provisions of the statute can be successfully and efficiently enforced only by a harmonious cooperation of all the United States officials and employees who have to deal with the execution of the law. If, nevertheless, differences arise, they will be reported to this department, to the end that they may be investigated by the two departments involved and the cause of friction removed.

The letter of Capt. Foley, above referred to, is returned herewith.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 7, 1911.

SIR: After a consideration of the points involved in the controversy between Capt. Foley, of the Revenue-Cutter Service, and Agent W. I. Lembkey, of this department, I conclude that Mr. Lembkey was justified in assuming that the boats and their contents taken from the Japanese who landed on St. Paul Island the latter part of July last would not be needed as evidence to convict such Japanese on the charge of landing in violation of section 5 of the act of April 21, 1910. He was not, however, justified in assuming that the jurisdiction of the commissioner at Unalaska did not extend over the Pribilof Islands, and he was not justified in refusing to deliver the articles in question when demanded by a deputy United States marshal on an order by the commissioner at Unalaska. He was not required to transport them, and it was not for him to determine whether or not the commissioner was warranted in issuing the order. Other charges than landing on the Pribilof Islands, though they may not have been known to Mr. Lembkey, might have been made against the Japanese, and the production of the articles mentioned in the order might have been necessary. In at first refusing to deliver the articles and then giving them up two days later, Mr. Lembkey was prompted, no doubt, by the best of motives. It is assumed that after he had refused to deliver the articles he realized that the determination of the jurisdiction of the commissioner or the exercise of discretion as to what evidence might be needed did not come within the scope of his authority.

Capt. Foley was in error in assuming that the four sealskins taken should have been seized and destroyed. This contention was based upon section 9 of the act of December 29, 1897, concerning which section the Attorney General, in his opinion of February 8, 1910 (28 Op. At. Gen., 173–175), said:

> The meaning that is usually given by the courts to the word "importation" as used in the customs laws is the bringing of goods into ports of the United States for the purpose of introducing them into the commerce of the country, and I think the same meaning should be given to the word as used in this section.

You are directed to instruct the agents of this department in charge of the seal business in Alaska to recognize the jurisdiction of United States commissioners over the Pribilof Islands, and to respect all orders issued by a United States commissioner and properly

served. If any commissioner capriciously or without justification persists in issuing orders for the production of property not needed as evidence or not involved in any case coming before him, the matter should be reported to this department, so that it may, if deemed advisable, be taken up with the Department of Justice. As to the officers of the Treasury Department, or any other department, you are directed to instruct the agents of this department to avoid, in every reasonable way, any friction. The officers of all departments must cooperate and work in harmony for the efficient enforcement of the law. If, notwithstanding all reasonable effort on the part of the officers and agents of this department to work in harmony with the representatives of another department, it is found that friction can not be avoided, the matter should be reported to the end that it may be investigated by the two departments involved and the cause of the friction removed.

The papers received from your bureau are returned herewith.

Respectfully,

CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 10, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent at Seal Fisheries in Alaska,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Inclosed for your information is copy of a letter from the Secretary, dated March 7, relative to the controversy between Capt. Foley, of the Revenue-Cutter Service, and yourself.

Therefore, you are hereby instructed to recognize the jurisdiction of United States commissioners over the Pribilof Islands, and to respect all orders issued by a United States commissioner and properly served. If any commissioner capriciously or without justification persists in issuing orders for the production of property not needed as evidence or not involved in any case coming before him, the matter should be reported to this department, so that it may, if deemed advisable, be taken up with the Department of Justice. You are instructed further to avoid, in every reasonable way, any friction with any officer of the Treasury Department, or any other department. The officers of all branches of the Government must cooperate and work in harmony for the efficient enforcement of the law. If, notwithstanding all reasonable effort on your part to work in harmony with the representatives of another department, it is found that friction can not be avoided, the matter should be reported, to the end that it may be investigated by the two departments involved and the cause of the friction removed.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 20, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary, I have the honor to transmit herewith extract from the report dated the 4th ultimo of Senior Capt. D. P. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet.

Respectfully,

A. PIATT ANDREW,
Assistant Secretary.

[Extract from letter dated Unalaska, Alaska, June 4, 1910, from Senior Capt. D. P. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Fleet, to the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury.]

I called on Collector Newberry and obtained from him the names of the six Canadian vessels licensed for sealing this year. These vessels, previous to entering Bering Sea, are to hunt sea otters within the limits of the award of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration and carry arms and implements suitable for their killing, which are different in no respect from those employed in seal hunting, except that because of the wariness of the sea otter, it is necessary to use rifles instead of shotguns. The same is true of traveling seals. The masters of these vessels protest against the sealing up of their rifles, as was done last year by Capt. Bertholf, claiming that there is nothing in the regulations of the Paris tribunal authorizing it, or even forbidding vessels fitted for the taking of fur seals being within the limits of the award during the closed season. So far as I could learn from Collector Newberry, Great Britain has enacted no law similar to our law of April 6, 1894, subjecting sealers to seizure on the presumption of guilt, merely because of their presence within the limits of the award during the closed season. Collector Newberry told me that he could clear a vessel for hunting and fishing, and such clearance would permit the vessels to go within the limits of the award during the closed season with arms, implements, or apparatus suitable for the killing of sea otters, which, as stated above, are also suitable for the taking of fur seals. Such vessels, however, would be subject to seizure under paragraph "f" of the instructions issued to the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet, but there are no instructions authorizing the seizure of licensed vessels, under similar circumstances or the sealing up of their arms.

If Canadian sealers enter within the limits of the award during the closed season, ostensibly to hunt the sea otter, and at the time when the seals are making their way to their rookeries on the Pribilof Islands, there is nothing to prevent them taking seals except the fear of being caught red-handed by a United States revenue cutter, the chances of which are remote because of the cloak which the hunting of sea otters gives them, and of the ease with which conclusive evidence of their guilt may be destroyed previous to a search, even if the latter be not evaded by the ruse of flying the Japanese flag. So far as I could understand from my conversation with Collector Newberry, no instructions were given Canadian sealers to fly their flags when within the limits of the award. It is a mooted question with them, whether it is not sufficient to have it on board. The Canadian sealers and cus-

toms authorities apparently fall back on the strict letter of the regulations and lose sight of their intent and purpose.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, August 19, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information extracts from the reports of the operations of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet in the present season.

Respectfully,

A. PIATT ANDREW,
Assistant Secretary.

[Extracts from reports on operations of Bering Sea Fleet, 1910. From report of Senior Capt. D. P. Foley, commanding fleet, dated June 29, 1910.]

FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

Information was obtained (through Capt. Quinan, commanding the *Tahoma*) of the visit of the *Tokei Maru* to Chirikof Island June 4th, the 7th, and of the landing thereon of some of her crew drunk and insolent, of attempts to trade whisky or saki, and the theft of 17 fox traps from a white man on the island. Capt. Quinan is of the opinion that this white man carries on a small trade with these sealers, but evidence is difficult to obtain in the case.

Information was also obtained of four Japanese sealers apparently bound for ports in Shelikof Strait, but nothing was seen of them by the *Tahoma*, though she returned from Seward by that way. Four small American trading vessels were boarded at Kodiak. Some of the small American vessels trading in Alaska are without other papers than a letter from the collector of customs at Juneau, stating that they will be measured when opportunity offers and papers given them. Many of these vessels are a long distance from Juneau, and it would be a hardship to require them to go there for admeasurement, and it would be unjust to deny them for a long period the privilege of engaging in lawful trade merely because the Government is unable to document them at once, and yet the practice is irregular and should be avoided. It is suggested that the commanding officers of our vessels be made special deputy collectors of customs at large for Alaska, with authority to admeasure vessels and to issue temporary documents, but without placing them otherwise under the jurisdiction of the collector at Juneau than to report such documenting.

Capt. Quinan learned that part of a wreck was washed ashore on the north end of Chirikof Island in November last, and that on the main boom were carved the number 136486, and the tonnage, 56.88 tons. These may be the means of identifying the wrecked vessel.

Since the receipt of a letter of the honorable Secretary of Commerce and Labor deciding that section 3109, Revised Statutes, as amended by the act of February 17, 1898, applies to foreign sealing

vessels, the commanding officers of the patrol vessels have been instructed to order all whom they learn have come within the territorial waters of Alaska to report at this customhouse and to seize all who neglect or refuse to obey the order. Next season no warning should be given, but all who do not voluntarily report at the nearest customhouse, as required by law after entering Alaskan waters, should be seized and confiscated. I believe that the practice of closing all Aleutian ports or places to foreign sealing vessels, except when in actual distress, and the infliction of full penalties for violations of law, will go far toward reducing the number engaged in pelagic sealing. At the present time they use our ports as the bases of operations against the seal islands, trade with the natives and with unprincipled white people, water ship, take fish, and break our laws with impunity, and are apparently getting bolder every year. Nothing will prevent this but the presence of our vessels in Alaska at the time when they are entering and leaving Bering Sea and the strict enforcement of the law.

It is rumored that a Japanese company has been trying to secure a lease of the property (that of Alaska Commercial Co. at Dutch Harbor) for the purpose of engaging in the whale fishery in these waters. In my opinion it would be distinctly objectionable to have such a lease made. The company could not, of course, fish within territorial waters, and it is a question whether, if it owns vessels engaged in pelagic sealing, it could be prevented from furnishing them with supplies and water in this port and also beyond the maritime jurisdiction of the United States. If it would be lawful for this company to lease its property to a foreign corporation, so, also, would it be lawful for any private person having a grant of land in any of the harbors of the Aleutian Islands to give such a lease. The recommendation made last year by the commanding officer of the patrol fleet, though for another purpose, that the shores of all these islands to a distance of 5 miles back from the water be made Government reservation, therefore, seems to me a wise one in view of such a contingency as this.

JULY 5, 1910.

The seizure of the *Tokai Maru* (by the *Perry* June 28, 1910) was a piece of good luck attending the assistant to the *Koyei Maru* and illustrates the statement in my previous report that the Japanese sealers are visiting the uninhabited bays and harbors for the purpose of getting water and catching fish. I feel certain that could I spare a vessel to look into the several harbors adjacent to the passes by which these vessels enter the sea we would be able to catch others, and it is only in that way that we can make pelagic sealing less easy than it is at present. Compelling sealers to report at a customhouse is merely an annoyance to them, involving only the loss of a few days in making the trip, and accomplishes nothing so far as preventing them from using our harbors is concerned. Forfeiture for neglecting to report will help, but the law has been so many years on the statute books without being enforced that I think the exaction of the penalty without warning would hardly be proper. I do not know whether it is against the law for these people to take water in unfrequented bays or to land on our islands, but

it should be, and if all the islands to the southward and westward of Unimak Pass were made special reservations for Government purposes, as the Pribilofs are (sec. 5 act of Apr. 21, 1910), making the landing thereon, except through stress of weather or other like unavoidable cause without authority of the proper department of the Government, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 or imprisonment in jail not exceeding six months, or by both fine and imprisonment for every person so offending, making the fine a lien against any vessel or other property of the offending party and empowering officers of the United States Revenue-Cutter Service to make searches, seizures, and arrests under the law as is done in the act of June 14, 1906, the hands of the patrol officers will be greatly strengthened for the purpose of practically closing all ports and places in Alaskan waters to foreign sealing vessels.

I do not believe the sealing schooners can carry water enough to last them four or five months, and if we can prevent them from obtaining any in our territory we will handicap them seriously. I regard the water as a supply in the same sense as food or any other article necessary for the operation of a vessel and alike forbidden to be furnished to those engaged in sealing, and have issued orders accordingly to parties concerned both in Dutch Harbor and Unalaska, and all Japanese sealing vessels entering either of these ports have been denied supplies of any kind whatsoever. It is true a vessel entering port without water may claim to be in distress, but she would be equally so if out of food, and the law undoubtedly forbids the furnishing of the latter. In any case I should furnish her with a supply of either to last merely while in port but not for the purpose of sealing.

Converting these islands into Government reservations would also prevent, as stated in my report of the 28th of June, the possible securing by a foreign company of a lease to property in any of the harbors of the islands, and also, in case the Interior Department should, as suggested, gather together in one settlement the natives of Attu and Atka Islands and of other villages, not only prevent the rapid and complete extinction by poachers of the fur-bearing animals on the abandoned islands, but permit of their increase under proper regulations. I am reliably informed that the law forbidding the killing of fur-bearing animals in Alaska Territory (sec. 1956, R. S., as amended by the act of Apr. 21, 1910) is not enforced on the mainland of Alaska nor is it, so far as I can learn, on the Aleutian Islands. The law above referred to provides that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor may authorize the killing of fur-bearing animals under such regulations as he may prescribe. There is need for such regulations and their enforcement. Notwithstanding that pelts taken out of proper season have little value compared with those taken in season these animals are being killed at all times of the year wherever found, and it is believed that poison is being used by some in taking them. The regulations should provide for a closed season and forbid, under penalty, the sale or purchase of pelts during it. As this is one of the laws we are expected to enforce, I ask that copies of the regulations be furnished me for the information of the patrol fleet.

The *Perry* sailed for the seal islands at 9 a. m. of the 2d instant and will return on the 11th for the session of the district court. The *Tahoma* sailed at 9 a. m. of the 3d instant and the *Manning*

returned to Dutch Harbor at 9.35 p. m. of the 3d. The commanding officer of the latter vessel reports that about 1,000 seals, half of which are females, are on the rookery at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, and that but three Japanese sealing vessels were seen, all of which were boarded. A copy of the report is herewith inclosed.

[Extract of letter addressed to the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C., dated July 30, 1910.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Unalaska, Alaska, August 25, 1910.

The navigation about the Pribilof Islands, and in particular about St. Paul Island, which is fringed with dangerous reefs, is very difficult because of the fogs, dense at times, which prevail during the sealing season, the treacherous currents, varying in force and direction according to no known law, and the absence of aids to navigation about the islands. The vessels must cruise in fogs to make the patrol efficient, because it is in foggy weather that the sealers approach the rookeries, and they must keep in touch with the land in order not to lose the islands. In a past season the *Bear* lost them three days, and other vessels have cruised about them for days at a time without finding them. We are risking valuable ship property continuing under present conditions, and I, therefore, recommend that for another season buoys be placed about St. Paul Island as follows: Bell buoy on the reef off Northeast Point; whistling buoy near Sea Lion Rocks, Reef Point; first-class can buoy on the reef off Tonki Point; first-class nun buoy on the reef off Southwest Point; and spar buoy on the 2-fathom shoal to the southward of Polovina Point. Wooden beacons or day marks should also be placed on some of the low-lying points of this island, to distinguish them from others adjacent. The *Perry* mistook Polovina Point, seen indistinctly in the fog, for Tonki Point, and having run her distance hauled down for East anchorage too soon.

I am informed that when vessels of the Navy were patrolling these islands they placed buoys of their own on the dangerous points.

The lighthouse tender *Armeria* makes two trips each summer to Bering Sea, one at the beginning and the other at the close of the season, and could easily place these buoys and remove them again before the ice forms in the fall. They can be stored at Unalaska for the winter.

It was Tonki Point the U. S. S. *Adams* struck in 1898. Other of our vessels besides the *Perry* have also struck about the island—the *Corwin*, *Bear*, *McCulloch*, and *Manning*—but these vessels have wooden bottoms and escaped; the *Perry* is of iron and was lost.

Respectfully,

D. P. FOLEY,
Senior Captain, U. S. R. C. S.,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

[Telegram.]

SEWARD, ALASKA, *August 30, 1910.*

Hon. BENJAMIN S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.:

Referring to Capt. Foley's letter of July 27, I indorse his recommendation and suggest that he be instructed by telegraph to disband patrol fleet when satisfied all Canadian and Japanese sealers have left Bering Sea.

CHARLES NAGEL.

9.24 A. M., AUGUST 31, 1910.

AUGUST 31, 1910.

SIR: I have just received a telegram from Secretary Nagel, dated Seward, Alaska, August 30, reading as follows:

Referring to Capt. Foley's letter of July 27, I indorse his recommendation and suggest that he be instructed by telegraph to disband patrol fleet when satisfied all Canadian and Japanese sealers have left Bering Sea.

Will you please furnish this department, if entirely consistent, with a copy of Capt. Foley's letter of July 27, and also issue the necessary instructions by telegraph, and advise this department.

Very respectfully,

_____ _____,
Acting Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Copy.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, September 2, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary I have the honor to state in reply to your communication of the 31st ultimo that the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Patrol Fleet has been directed by wire this date to disband the patrol fleet October 1 if satisfied that all sealers have left the sea.

Agreeably to your request there is transmitted herewith copy of Senior Capt. Foley's report of the 27th of July last.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. D. HILLES,
Assistant Secretary.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Unalaska, Alaska, July 27, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Continuing my report of the 13th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the *Perry* sailed on patrol duty on the 14th instant, having on board Prof. Jochelson, the Russian scientist, who has been

making ethnological and ethnographical observations on the Aleutian Islands and who has permission from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to visit the Pribilof Islands. On her departure the armed guard which had been maintained at the local jail practically since the 28th of June was discontinued, the deputy marshal having obtained a sufficient number of civil guards.

The *Tahoma* arrived from the seal islands on the 16th instant. Her commanding officer reports that there are between 15 and 18 Japanese sealing vessels about St. Paul Island, but that they are keeping well beyond the 3-mile limit; their boats, however, at times getting dangerously near that limit, about Otter and Walrus Islands. The *Tahoma* on her recent cruise boarded 10 of these vessels. Among them was one, the *Clutose Maru No. 2,* which, by the admission of her master, had visited Attu June 16th. This vessel was ordered to report to the collector of customs at Dutch Harbor, as required by section 3109, Revised Statutes, as amended by the act of February 17, 1898. Up to this date she has not reported, and orders to seize her, if found in the sea, have been given to the patrol vessels. As two or three other Japanese sealers have reported here in obedience to orders and have been permitted to proceed thereafter unmolested, and this fact is known to all, there is apparent ground for Capt. Quinan's surmise that the *Clutose Maru No. 2* had violated some other law on that visit, and fearing that we had knowledge or evidence of it preferred to leave the sea. Another of the vessels boarded reports a catch of 58 seals in Unimak Pass. This agrees with information received through the captain of the lighthouse tender *Armeria* from the keeper of Scotch Cap Lighthouse, that some of these vessels had their boats down and were sealing close inshore while going through the pass. We have no evidence fixing this violation of law on any particular vessel, not even on the one reporting the catch. Unimak Pass is about 20 miles wide in its greatest width, and a vessel near its center would be outside territorial waters. The report, however, shows the necessity of having a patrol vessel in that vicinity when the sealers are entering Bering Sea.

A Japanese schooner was seen at anchor off Hog Island in Unalaska Bay in the evening of the 15th instant. On the arrival of the *Tahoma* the next morning her launch was sent to board and search her, but she could not be found, having sailed in the meantime. It is a little provoking to have them come so close to us and escape without even being boarded.

Referring to so much of Capt. Quinan's report as regards our right to demand and examine the papers of Japanese sealers outside territorial waters, it appears to me that we have that right in order to determine not only their nationality but also whether they are properly documented vessels of the nation to which they claim to belong and whose flag they fly, and I instructed him accordingly. It also conforms to instructions contained in paragraph 5–*a* of department instructions of April 5, 1910, to me, which have been incorporated in fleet circular letters. We have, of course, no right of search outside the 3-mile limit. The case of these sealing vessels is distinct and different from that of ordinary merchant vessels pursuing their course on the high seas, since these sealers hover for weeks just beyond our territorial waters near enough to make a sudden descent and raid on the rookeries, and in fact have within recent years made

such raids. A proper supervision over them, including the examination of their papers to establish beyond a doubt their nationality, their identity, and their character, whether as documented or undocumented vessels, is a right of self-defense not different from that which we exercise over foreign vessels found within 4 leagues of our coast and bound to our ports. A copy of Capt. Quinan's report is inclosed.

Transportation on the *Tahoma* from St. Paul Island to St. George Island was given to Mr. Harold Heath, professor of zoology in Stanford University, who is taking a census of the seals on the islands.

The *Tahoma* returned to patrol duty on the 20th instant. By my direction she received on board for transportation to St. Paul Island Theodore Kochutin, a native, and his sister, Mrs. Vlassoff, who is insane at intervals and who has been living alone at Dutch Harbor in the absence of her husband on a sea-otter schooner. It was desired to take her to her parents that she might have proper care. They had permission from special agent Lembkey to return to St. Paul Island.

The Japanese sealing schooner *Koyei Maru,* which was towed into port in a disabled condition by the *Perry* June 28, sailed on the 17th instant, having effected repairs to her rudder entirely from her own resources, except repairs to one of her rudder braces, which were made by the *Manning.* This vessel was given permission to unlade her stores and ballast on a small uninhabited island in the harbor during repairs and was allowed to take on board additional stone ballast and a supply of fresh water sufficient to last until she reaches her own country on assurance from her master that he would leave Bering Sea. She was not allowed to purchase supplies of any kind whatever. Her status as a vessel in distress, coupled with the assurance that she would abandon sealing in Bering Sea for this season, warranted, in my judgment, the privileges accorded her.

The *Manning* returned from the Pribilof Islands on the 22d instant and sailed again on the 26th. During her recent cruise she steamed 780 miles and boarded 14 Japanese sealing vessels. The total number of these vessels boarded by the fleet to date is 20, which I believe comprises the entire sealing fleet of this season. Of these one has been seized for a violation of the alien fishing laws and two have returned to Japan, leaving 17 at the Pribilof Islands. The complement of these 17 is 564 men, 12 of whom are white men. They have 133 boats, none of which are motor boats. In reply to questions by the boarding officers the masters of the great majority of these vessels stated that they expect to leave the sea the latter part of August, four or five only expecting to remain until September 10. They leave this early in order to get home before the beginning of the typhoon season in the China Seas. The Canadians also leave early in September. It is therefore recommended that the patrol fleet be disbanded October 1, provided it is found that all the sealers have left the sea by or before that time.

The *Manning* parted her chain in Village Cove due to the spreading of a shackle, but recovered her anchor and the chain attached to it, the anchor having been buoyed before it was let go. Her commanding officer reports a noticeable increase in the number of seals about the islands over what was seen on the previous cruise, and also that every effort was made to carry on the drills and routine exercises notwithstanding active cruising.

Copies of the reports of the commanding officers of the *Tahoma* and *Manning* are inclosed herewith, and also carbon copies of my previous report and accompanying papers, which went out by the *Homer*.

The Russian transport *Kolima* arrived at Dutch Harbor on the 17th instant for Prof. Jochelson. Official calls were exchanged with her. She sailed on the 18th instant for the seal islands, where the professor had gone on the *Perry*, and returned on the 23d instant. Her commanding and wardroom officers gave a dinner to the commanding officer of the patrol fleet and the commanding and wardroom officers of the *Manning*. A return dinner was given the Russian officers by the officers of the *Manning*. The *Kolima* sailed at 8.25 a. m. to-day for Kamchatka.

The *Tahoma* arrived at 1.10 p. m. to-day and reports that the *Perry* had gone ashore on Tonki (Rocky) Point Reef, St. Paul Island, about 7 a. m. of the 26th instant, and is hard on the rocks forward and amidship and afloat aft. Her fireroom and holds are full of water and the tide ebbs and flows in her. Her stores and outfits have been landed on the beach. The *Tahoma* came in quest of a donkey boiler, pump, and wrecking apparatus, but none are to be had either here or at Dutch Harbor. I go on the *Tahoma* to-morrow morning to the scene of the wreck.

Capt. Quinan reports having seized by my orders the Japanese schooner *Tora Maru* for violation of section 3109, Revised Statutes, as amended by the act of February 17, 1898, that vessel having visited Sitka May 7 and 8 last and having been ordered at that time by the collector of customs of Juneau to report at Cordova or Dutch Harbor and having neglected to do so. Because of his desire to reach this port at the earliest possible time in search of wrecking appliances for the *Perry*, Capt. Quinan placed a prize crew composed of the gunner and four men on board the schooner and anchored her off St. George Island until he could return for her.

I am informed by the assistant district attorney that because of the inability of Capt. Haake and the other witnesses on the *Perry* to be in this port to-morrow for the hearing of the libel proceedings against the *Tokai Maru* that the case against that vessel will be transferred to Valdez. The case against the *Tora Maru* will also be tried at that place early in September, and it will therefore be necessary to send the *Tahoma* there for the trial, and also Capt. Haake and the other witnesses against the *Tokai Maru*. The complements of the two seized vessels will also have to be taken there by the *Tahoma*.

The Russian transport *Kolima* returned to port at 6 p. m. for some minor repairs to her machinery. She sails again at midnight.

The mail boat *Dora* has not yet arrived. This report will go out on her.

Respectfully,

(Signed) D. P. FOLEY,
Senior Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
STEAMER "MANNING,"
Unalaska, Alaska, September 15, 1910.

Senior Capt. D. P. FOLEY,
United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet, Unalaska, Alaska.

SIR: * * * On September 3 I proceeded from East Landing to the eastward, rounding Northeast Point, thence to the northward and eastward. One sealing vessel was observed, the *Eiun Maru.* This vessel is the same one which was boarded by the *Manning* on June 29 last. The data as secured in connection with this vessel is as follows:

1. Name and hail port: *Eiun Maru No. 2,* Rikuzen Miyado, Japan.
2. Master's name: Kosaburo Yoshida.
3. Date and position of vessel when boarded: September 3, 1910; latitude 57° 24′ N.; longitude 169° 52′ W.
4. When vessel left Japan: February 20, 1910.
5. When she entered Bering Sea: June 25, 1910.
6. By what pass: Unimak Pass.
7. Alaska ports visited: None.
8. When vessel arrived at seal islands: June 29, 1910.
9. License: Deep-sea fishing; unlimited.
10. Number of men in crew: Thirty-one.
11. Number of white men in crew: None.
12. Number of boats: Nine.
13. Number of motor boats: None.
14. Number of sealskins on board: Three hundred and ninety-two.
15. Where caught: Southeastern Alaska coast, off Sitka, and Bering Sea.
16. Number caught in Bering Sea: Two hundred and eight.
17. Expects to leave Bering Sea: September 10, 1910.

The data covering the boarding of the *Eiun Maru No. 2* on June 29 last has been previously submitted. * * *

Respectfully,

(Signed) G. L. CARDEN,
Captain, United States Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, November 3, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary, I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of extracts from the report of Senior Capt. D. P. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Fleet, upon the operations of the fleet for the season of 1910.

Your attention is invited to the request of Senior Capt. Foley for decisions upon a number of questions, set forth on pages 14, 15, and 16 of the accompanying copy of extracts from his report. This department will be pleased to obtain your decisions upon the points raised by Senior Capt. Foley in order that the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet for the next season may be properly instructed in the premises.

Respectfully,

C. D. HILLES,
Assistant Secretary.

[Extracts from the report of Senior Capt. D. P. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding Bering Sea Patrol Fleet, on the operations of the patrol fleet for the season of 1910.]

UNITED STATES REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE,
Port Townsend, Wash., October 20, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: * * * I respectfully renew the recommendation made in my letter of July 30, for the placing of buoys about St. Paul Island and the erection of day marks on some of the low lying points to distinguish them in foggy weather from adjacent points. These beacons or day marks should be placed on the shore line, as that is often visible when the higher parts of the land are enshrouded in fog. These aids would not only add greatly to the safety of navigation about St. Paul Island, but would enable vessels to cruise when now they must lie at anchor. In this connection I have to report that there is a reef extending from the southern side of Otter Island not shown on the chart. This should be surveyed. With suitable weather this work could be done in a week.

The *Tahoma* returned to Unalaska July 30, having in tow the Japanese sealing schooner *Tora Maru*, which was seized for a violation of sections 2773 and 3109, Revised Statutes. This vessel had visited Sitka May 7 and 8 last and had been ordered by the collector of customs at Juneau to report to the deputy collector of customs either at Cordova or Dutch Harbor, as required by law, and had not done so. Her master's only excuse for not reporting at Cordova as directed was that he didn't care to go there. He was accordingly seized July 26 and anchored off St. George Island, while the *Tahoma* was engaged with the *Perry*. On arrival at Unalaska the vessel was turned over to the deputy collector of customs and the master fined $400 under section 2773, Revised Statutes. Proceedings against the vessel under section 3109, Revised Statutes, were not instituted for the reason that there was some question as to whether Japan can be considered foreign territory adjacent to the northern, northeastern, and northwestern frontiers of the United States, including Alaska; whether the vessel, being engaged in sealing only, could be considered as in trade with or through Alaska; and whether forfeiture of the vessel should include also forfeiture of tackle, apparel, and cargo. It is respectfully suggested that a decision be obtained on these points. The crew could not be punished for the offense committed by the vessel, neither could they, under our immigration laws, be permitted to land. They would therefore have to be deported at the expense of the United States. The simplest way out of these difficulties seemed to be the imposition of a fine on the master. This was in due time paid by an arrangement through the Japanese consul in Seattle, and the vessel was released on receipt of advices, September 4. She was not, however, permitted to leave until three of her crew who deserted were retaken. She sailed September 8.

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She (the *Manning*) brought down 11 Japanese, members of boats' crews from sealing vessels who had landed on St. Paul Island, one boat at Northeast Point at 8 a. m. July 30, another near Lukanin rookery at 2 p. m. the same day, and a third near the wreck of the *Perry* on Tonki Point at 3 a. m. July 31. The boats which landed

July 30 had crews of four men each and carried the usual outfit of shotguns, ammunition, sealing knives, etc., and in addition one had three sealskins and the dead body of a seal, not skinned. The third boat had a crew of three men and carried the usual hunting outfit. None of these boats were seen to land by the guards on the island and were not discovered until later. One crew reached the guard-house at Northeast Point before being seen, another had built a fire on the beach to dry their clothes, and the third had wandered about the island several hours searching for the village before they were found. Complaints against these men were made before United States Commissioner Brown at Unalaska, and they were brought to trial August 10. Because of the absence of important evidence a continuance was granted until August 27. Subsequently, counsel for defense having withdrawn the plea of not guilty and substituted a plea of guilty of unlawful landing, the case was tried August 26 and a sentence of five days' imprisonment imposed. The charge of unlawful sealing against the boat's crew which had the skins was nolle prossed for want of sufficient evidence to secure a conviction. A light sentence was imposed in order that the men might be deported on the *Tora Maru* and the Government saved the expense of deporting them later from Seattle. Two, however, walked out of the local jail and hid until after the *Tora Maru* had sailed, when they surrendered themselves. These were taken to Port Townsend and turned over to the immigration officials. The fact that two of the boats landed unobserved near important rookeries and the crew of another wandered for hours about the island before being found proves the inefficiency of the present guard system.

This will be pretty well known to the entire sealing fleet next year, and unless a better guard is maintained or the law is changed we may expect similar landings to take place. I believe the fines imposed on the men should be made a lien on the ships, as it is in the case of illegal fishing. This would work a hardship in case a boat's crew, in order to get even with the master, deliberately involves the vessel, but I do not know that that is any of our business or that we are required to make pelagic sealing entirely safe and profitable. These vessels are not around the islands at our invitation and should bear the responsibility for risks which grow out of their own organization. Making the fine a lien on the vessel would have one good effect, greatly desired by us, namely, of compelling the sealers to keep their boats within signal distance and not, as now, permitting them to go from 10 to 12 miles away and get lost in the fog or caught out in a blow and be furnished with an excuse for landing on the island. It is no punishment on the men to imprison them in our jails, where they are well fed, comfortably housed, and furnished with clothing when necessary, and at the expiration of their sentence sent home in an ocean liner.

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The sealing fleet.—The Japanese sealing fleet of this season as shown by the boarding lists of the patrol vessels was composed of 25 schooners carrying 816 men and 201 boats. Of the crews 19 were white men distributed among six vessels. The remainder were Japanese. There were no motor boats in the fleet.

These vessels left Japan between December 5, 1909, and May 22, 1910, the majority leaving after March 1. As some reported two

different dates of leaving Japan, one in February and the other in May, it is probable that after sealing in the Sea of Japan they returned to their home ports before starting for Bering Sea. Nine entered the sea from the westward between June 16 and July 1, 15 through Unimak Pass between June 20 and July 1, and one through Unimak Pass May 20. All arrived at the seal islands between June 24 and July 13. They operate under a variety of licenses, namely: To seal in Bering Sea and the North Pacific for a limited period, also for an indefinite period; deep-sea seal and sea-otter fishing, unlimited as to place; deep-sea seal and sea-lion fishing, unlimited as to place; special sealing license, renewable yearly, and others. None were found that were not sealing under some kind of license, but some were found operating under licenses which had expired. The total catch of these vessels as reported at date of last boarding was 4,448 skins, of which 2,333 were taken in Bering Sea. The remainder were taken in the Sea of Japan, about the Commander Islands, on the coast of Alaska from Dixons Entrance to Unimak Pass, and in Unimak Pass; off Sitka, the Fairweather Grounds, and off the Sannak and Semidi Islands being the favorite places on our coast. One vessel, the *Shimushu Maru*, followed the herd from Lower California to Bering Sea and had the largest catch reported. It must be borne in mind that the figures representing the catch are based on information received from the sealers and are probably not exact and that the reports in most cases do not cover the height of the season, namely, the latter part of July and the month of August. It is fair to assume that both totals should be increased by about 2,000. These vessels were boarded 64 times by the patrol fleet and usually within 4 leagues of the Pribilof Islands, though a few were boarded from 15 to 18 miles offshore. The following is a list of the Japanese vessels boarded, giving hail port, date of entering Bering Sea and by what pass, date of arrival at the seal islands, when last boarded, and the number of skins taken:

Japanese sealing schooners boarded during season of 1910.

Name.	Hail port.	Entered sea.	Arrived islands.	What pass.	Last boarded.	Bering Sea seals.	Total skins.
1. Boso Maru No. 2	Tateyama	June 26	June 29	Unimak	July 18	57	161
2. Chidori Maru	Tokyo	July 1	July 5	do	July 25	26	136
3. Chitose Maru	do	June 21	July 1	From westward	Sept. 1	225	225
4. Chitose Maru No. 2.	Hakodate	June 16	June 25	do	July 4	3	7
5. Chiyokuni Maru	do	do	June 24	do	July 25	102	206
6. Domei Maru	Tokyo	June 24	June 29	do	Aug. 8	176	176
7. Eiun Maru	Sendai	June 25	do	Unimak	Sept. 3	208	392
8. Funakoshi Maru	Iyogashima	June 21	June 27	do	Aug. 8	210	216
9. Hoan Maru	Tokyo	June 28	July 7	From westward	July 25	138	300
10. Hoko Maru	do	July 1	July 4	Unimak	Aug. 14	188	338
11. Kaiwo	do	May 20	July 3	do	July 14	112	120
12. Kofugi Maru	Gogoshima	June 24	July 1	From westward	July 8	34	34
13. Korui Maru	do				Aug. 8	91	91
14. Koyei Maru	Ishihama	June 26		Unalga	June 28	0	160
15. Kwanyo Maru	do	June 24	July 1	Unimak	Aug. 11	158	220
16. Matsu Maru	Tokyo	June 20	do	do	July 14	77	245
17. Midori Maru	do	June 14	July 6	From westward	July 21	12	20
18. Nitto Maru	Miyakomachi	July 1	July 5	do	July 25	77	201
19. Shimushu Maru	Tokyo	June 28	do	Unimak	Aug. 25	90	470
20. Toei Maru	Doriminato					49	49
21. Tokai Maru	Miyakominato	June 26		Unimak	June 28	0	95
22. Tora Maru	Tokyo	July 1	July 13	do	July 25	58	148
23. Toyei Maru No. 1.	Riori	do	July 12	do	July 14	0	23
24. Toyei Maru No. 2.	Shimosato	June 29	July 7	do	July 11	69	242
25. Unohi Maru	Hakodate	do	do	do	Aug. 8	173	173
Total						2,333	4,448

Through the visit of the *Tahoma* to the westward in the middle of September, it was learned that five or six Japanese schooners had visited Attu in June after the *Perry's* visit, though in reply to questions of the boarding officers during the season, but one admitted having been there. As was to be expected, after it became known to them that for entering an Alaskan port without subsequently reporting at the nearest customhouse, they were liable to seizure and fine or forfeiture, they denied having entered such ports. Because of the smallness of the patrol fleet and the essential part of its work being the protection of the Pribilof Islands, the movements of its vessels must necessarily follow certain defined routes, which are known to the sealing vessels. They accordingly know where to go and when, to avoid them. After the first visit of a cutter to Attu at the beginning of the season, the whole coast of Alaska, except the port of Unalaska and the Pribilof Islands, is open to them for the purpose of watering ship and stocking up with fish. Alaska is the land of promise to them; its shores supply them with an abundance of pure water, its harbors with fish, its seals with meat and furs. They, therefore, need bring with them only rice and nerve, and they bring little else. They can never be induced to give up all these good things which are to be had for the taking until it is made too expensive. In devoting all our efforts to protecting the Pribilofs, it appears to me we are acting merely on the defensive. It is like locking one's self up in his own house ready to shoot all who break in, but leaving everything on the outside to the marauder. In preventing these vessels from obtaining fresh water in our territory, we will do more to discourage pelagic sealing on our coasts, or at least to shorten the season, than if we had a cordon of 100 ships around the Pribilofs. The Japanese do not need to get inside the 3-mile limit to kill seals; they are to be found outside; but because they are more plentiful close inshore and on the rookeries, it is necessary to have patrol vessels and guards. But these sealing schooners can not carry more than three or four months' supply of water, and when we consider the time they spend following the herd along the Alaskan coast and in returning home at the close of the season, we may judge how vital to them it is to be able to replenish their supply of it in our territory. Fresh water should be declared to be one of the supplies contemplated by the act of December 29, 1897, which citizens and subjects of the United States are forbidden to furnish vessels engaged in pelagic sealing, and which presumably they are barred from taking without pay.

It is no more a necessity than food is, and a vessel out of water is no more in distress than one out of food. They should therefore be prevented from getting water not only on entering Bering Sea and while there, but also on leaving the sea, so that they will be obliged to leave the islands so much the sooner. An exception should, of course, be made in the case of a vessel actually out of water. She should be furnished with enough to supply her wants daily until the close of the season, when she might be given a full supply. This would be relieving her distress without aiding her to carry on pelagic sealing. I can suggest no better plan for preventing sealing vessels from watering ship, catching fish, and otherwise using our harbors as a base of operations against our seals than to make the islands to the westward of Unimak Pass Government reservations, as the Pribilofs

are; making the landing thereon, except through stress of weather or other like unavoidable cause without authority from the proper department of the Government, a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 or imprisonment in jail not exceeding six months, or by both fine and imprisonment for every person so offending; making the fine a lien against the vessel from which he landed and empowering officers of the United States Revenue-Cutter Service to make searches, seizures, and arrests under the law as is provided in the act of June 14, 1906. Sections 2773 and 3109, Revised Statutes, do not meet the situation, since they require foreign vessels to report only at the nearest customhouse after having visited some other port. This is merely a slight annoyance to them, causing them the loss of a few days, but does not prevent them from watering ship in the port first visited. There is also some question whether Japan is such foreign territory adjacent to the United States as is contemplated by section 3109 as amended by the act of February 17, 1898, and whether sealing vessels may be considered as being in trade with or through Alaska. The alien fishing act of June 14, 1906, is effective, provided satisfactory evidence be obtained, but that is difficult to get unless the aliens are caught in the act of fishing, or the fish is so fresh that a claim that they were taken outside the 3-mile limit can not be sustained. Evidence of illegal landing is, however, much more easily obtained, and vessels can not obtain fresh water without sending their boats ashore for it.

I can see no objection to making these islands Government reservations, as there are no private rights to be injured thereby. Such a course, in addition to the aid it would give us in checking pelagic sealing, is necessary to prevent the extermination of the fox and other fur-bearing animals. It is not enough to enact this new law, but it must be enforced by a patrol vessel cruising among the islands when the Japanese are entering and leaving Bering Sea. The vessel to be employed on this duty should have good coal capacity and should leave Unalaska not later than May 25 and return July 1. She should first visit Attu and, leaving there an officer and boat's crew to protect that port, continue her cruise among the other islands. I am of the opinion that the Japanese in order to avoid observation visit the uninhabited islands. There are a number of good harbors. Kiska, for instance, is a very good harbor, except in heavy northeast gales, and would supply an abundance of fresh water and good fishing. The Bay of Waterfalls and the Bay of Islands (Adak Island) are also good harbors. These should be visited and another officer (or warrant officer) and boat's crew left in one of them, preferably Kiska. The harbors above enumerated have been surveyed and are safe for the entrance of our vessels. In Kiska Harbor there are still standing two good houses, built by the Navy, one of which could be used as temporary quarters for the guard and the other transported to Attu for the guard at that place. By guarding two harbors in that way and cruising among the other islands a very effective check could be placed on the sealing vessels. The chance of having a cutter drop in on them at unexpected times would have a very deterrent effect. It would also enable us to obtain definite information and competent evidence of violation of law, which it is now impossible for us to get. The officers and boats' crew left at the two harbors should be taken on board when the time came to return to Unalaska.

The same course should be followed from the middle of August to the middle of September.

Of the six Canadian vessels licensed for sealing this season but three were fallen in with in Bering Sea; two, the *Pescawha* and the *Eva Marie*, being spoken on the edge of the 60-mile zone by H. B. M. S. *Algerine*, and one, the *Thomas F. Bayard*, boarded in Dutch Harbor by Capt. Haake. All reported their catch as taken about the Commander Islands. The number of skins reported at date of boarding was as follows:

Vessel.	When boarded.	Number of skins.
Pescawha	Aug. 19	94
Eva Marie	Aug. 26	266
Thomas F. Bayard	Sept. 13	530
Total		890

The *Thomas F. Bayard* came into Dutch Harbor for water September 13, it being her master's intention to seal in Bering Sea for another month. I refused to let him have water for that purpose, but offered to supply him daily with water as long as he remained in port, or to give him enough to take him home, provided he promised to leave the sea. He accepted the latter offer, took on board 500 gallons, and sailed the next day. He was not seen in the sea subsequently. He told me that the Canadian sealers were instructed by the collector of customs at Victoria, British Columbia, that they have a right to use shotguns in Bering Sea to the westward of the water boundary between United States and Russian possessions, and that they do use them there. This right depends upon the construction placed on the phrase "Bering Sea" in article 6 of the regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration—whether what is known geographically as Bering Sea is meant, or only that part of it referred to in article 2. I respectfully ask for a decision on this matter, in connection with paragraph (E) of instructions to the fleet commander, which requires that a vessel found with a sealskin on board "that bears satisfactory evidence of having been shot in the Bering Sea * * * must be seized." If the Canadians are to be permitted to use shotguns to the westward of the water boundary, it will be a very difficult matter to prevent their use to the eastward of it, or to convict them of a violation of the regulations there, unless a freshly taken or freshly salted skin be found on board. So apparent is this and so easy would it be to destroy the evidence by throwing the skin overboard that it would be a waste of time for a patrol vessel to go through a pile of skins searching for one with shot holes in it. The Canadian contention for the right to carry firearms unsealed within the area of the award, and even in Bering Sea, and to use shotguns there to the westward of the water boundary is in evident bad faith, and undoubtedly is made for the express purpose of evading all supervision over their operations by United States patrol vessels, except as such as can be had by constant attendance on them throughout their cruise, which they know to be impracticable. We can, however, and we should have constant supervision over them while they are on the sea-otter grounds and when they enter Bering Sea.

From information received this year it is learned that they hunt the sea otter between Chirikof Island and the Semidis. They can not, of course, be prevented from doing so outside the 3-mile limit, but the presence of a cutter will prevent them chasing an otter inside the limit and will be a check on pelagic sealing, as they are still subject to search. It is said they enter the sea the latter part of July and water ship and otherwise make ready for the sealing season in the bays in the vicinity of Unimak Pass, and that at the end of the season they visit Akutan Harbor and purchase the sealskins taken by the natives. I do not know that they can be prevented from entering Bering Sea before the first of August, though it is the closed season and they have not the excuse of hunting sea otters there, but they can be and should be prevented, as the Japanese are, from using our harbors as a base of operations, since the same law applies to both. This, however, can not be done with a patrol fleet of less than four vessels.

It is respectfully asked that a decision be had for the information of the commanding officer of next season's patrol fleet on the following points:

1. Whether British Columbia and Japan or either of them is considered such foreign territory adjacent to the northern, northeastern, and northwestern boundaries of the United States, including Alaska, as is contemplated in section 3109, Revised Statutes, as amended by the act of February 17, 1898; whether, if so considered, sealing vessels of those countries may be considered as in trade with or through Alaska, and whether forfeiture of vessel provided for in that section includes forfeiture of tackle, apparel, furniture, and cargo.

2. Whether section 2773, Revised Statutes, applies to the sealing vessels of either or both of the countries above referred to and whether the pursuit of such vessel leaving a port without reporting must be a "hot pursuit," or whether she may be seized as the *Tora Maru* was some weeks later when found within 4 leagues of our coast, or on the high seas, she not having in the meantime completed her voyage, by touching at her own or some foreign port; whether such vessel remaining in port 48 hours can be compelled to enter as required by section 2774, Revised Statutes; whether if she enter she can be compelled to produce a consular bill of health, as required by the act of February 15, 1893, and whether a vessel having on board sealskins taken in the waters specified in the act of December 29, 1897, would be allowed to enter under section 9 of that act.

3. What action should be taken in the case of a sealing vessel entering an Alaskan port a second time and leaving without reporting, provided she had already reported as required by sections 2773 and 3109, Revised Statutes, for a previous entry the same season? To put the case more definitely, a certain Japanese sealer visited Attu at the beginning of the season and reported in due time at Unalaska. She is again found in the harbor of Attu at the close of the season. What action should be taken by the commanding officer of the patrol vessel in this case?

4. Has the commanding officer of a patrol vessel the right to board a Japanese sealer and to examine her papers outside the 3-mile limit about the Pribilof Islands? This question was put to me this season for definite instructions by the commanding officer of the *Tahoma*, and I directed him to board all found within 4 leagues of the islands and to demand to see their papers. It seems to me a proper super-

vision over these vessels, including an examination of their papers, to establish beyond a doubt their nationality, their identity, and their character whether as documented or undocumented vessels is a right of self-defense not different from that which we exercise in boarding foreign merchant vessels found within 4 leagues of our coast and bound to our ports. It is true these vessels are not bound to our ports, but they hover for weeks just beyond the territorial waters about the islands near enough to make a sudden descent and raid on the rookeries, and in fact have made such raids within recent years. Their case is different from that of merchant vessels pursuing their course on the high seas.

In years passed it has been the custom for patrol vessels to board these sealers outside the 4-league limit and to fire a blank cartridge, followed by a solid shot if they failed to heave to in response to a signal on the steam whistle. I think this action is unwarranted and should be discontinued, as we have no right of search outside the 3-mile limit nor right of self-defense beyond 12 miles, and besides the information given in reply to our inquiries is wholly gratuitous, often inaccurate, and of no great practical value for the protection of the seals.

The patrol fleet was composed of the *Tahoma*, *Manning*, and *Perry*. The latter was wrecked July 26 on Tonki Point Reef, St. Paul Island. The *Bear* joined the fleet September 4. The patrol of the Pribilof Islands, which was begun June 7, was maintained until September 20, at which time all the Japanese sealers had left the sea, the last of them to leave the islands being boarded September 3. As a result of the work of the fleet the *Tokai Maru* was seized by the *Perry* June 26 for illegal fishing in Kalekta Bay, Unalaska Island, and is held pending the result of libel proceedings for nonpayment of fines imposed for that offense. The *Koyei Maru* was towed into port in distress by the *Perry* June 26 and remained undergoing repairs until July 17, when she left for home. Neither of these vessels reached the Pribilofs. The *Tora Maru* was seized by the *Tahoma* off St. George Island July 25 for a violation of the customs laws and was fined $400. Notice of the payment of this fine was received September 4 and the vessel was released. She was, however, unable to leave at once because of the desertion of some of her crew. These were recaptured three days later, and she sailed for home September 8. The sailing master of the *Koyei Maru* was found to be an American citizen and was arrested and taken off the vessel. He was tried, pleaded guilty of illegal sealing, and was sentenced to a fine of $100 and costs. On July 30 and 31, 11 members of the crews of the *Hoko Maru* and the *Domei Maru* were found on St. Paul Island and were brought by the *Manning* to Unalaska for trial. They were convicted of illegal landing, sentenced to five days' imprisonment, and, excepting two, who escaped from the local jail, were, together with their boats, guns, equipment, etc., placed on board the *Tora Maru* for transportation to Japan. The two who escaped from the jail surrendered themselves after the sailing of the *Tora Maru* and were brought to Port Townsend and turned over to the immigration officials.

In addition to patrolling the Pribilof Islands the following work was done by the fleet: Two cruises were made as far westward as Attu, one by the *Perry* in June, and the other by the *Tahoma* in September.

On both these cruises supplies of food and clothing furnished by the Bureau of Education were distributed among the most destitute of the natives and medical attention and medicines given them. Bogoslof Island was also visited on both cruises and observations made of geological changes which have taken place since last year. The *Tahoma* cruised to the eastward as far as Seward from June 7 to June 22.

In the latter part of June the *Tahoma* made a cruise to Atka and intermediate islands with Dr. J. H. Romig, special agent of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to take a census of the natives and to inquire into their condition.

Immediately after the seizure of the *Tokai Maru* and at the request of the United States marshal an armed guard was placed over the local jail and maintained day and night for 16 days until the marshal was able to secure a sufficient number of civilian guards. Sick calls were also made at the jail throughout the season, at first by the surgeon of the vessel in port and later by the fleet surgeon.

While medical attention and medicines were freely given to all applying for them at all places visited by vessels of the fleet, particular attention was paid to the physical ailments of the natives of Unalaska and Dutch Harbor, the surgeons of the fleet assisting Dr. Romig, the superintendent of schools, southwest district of Alaska, in his medical examination of them and in the performance of surgical operations. After it was learned how large a percentage of these people are suffering from conjunctivitis and trachoma, a day was set apart after the arrival of each vessel in port for the treatment of all who applied. Later, when a surgeon was detailed for duty ashore, a determined effort was made to reach all who were afflicted, and armed guards were sent after those who failed to come voluntarily. Medical and surgical services were not confined to the natives and the Japanese prisoners, but were cheerfully given to all in need of them.

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The islands will never be fully protected until an efficient guard is maintained on them at important points to cooperate with the patrol vessels. Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, is the most important point to protect in this way, not only because it contains the largest rookery and a salt house, but also because it is farthest from the village and most likely to be raided. This matter was mentioned informally to the honorable the Secretary of Commerce and Labor on the occasion of his visit to Unalaska this summer, and he seemed to consider it favorably. This guard should be provided with two power dories carried in slides, one on each side of the point, so that either might be launched as required and depending on the state and direction of the sea. Three inexpensive plotting stations connected with one another by telephone should be established on the point for the purpose of accurately locating the position of any boat which might be within the three-mile limit. When a boat is so found, the power dory could be sent after it and chase it until caught. The patrol vessel could then be notified of the name of the schooner to which the boat belongs, that she might be seized. The guard and motor dories would make it unnecessary for the patrol vessels to hug the shore so closely as they do now and there would be less danger of their getting ashore. They would also permit of the patrol vessel

stationed about Northeast Point being sent occasionally to St. Matthews Island to protect that reservation and to prevent the Japanese watering ship there, as I am informed is their custom. Owing to the prevalence of fogs, visual signals are of little practical value; therefore it is essential that wireless stations be installed on St. Paul and St. George Islands. The station on St. Paul Island should be powerful enough to communicate with Unalaska and Nome. A 1 K. W. plant would be sufficient for St. George.

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The captured Japanese sealers under charge of the United States marshal and small trading and sea-otter hunting schooners monopolize the best berths in Unalaska Harbor, to the serious inconvenience of the patrol and other vessels in going alongside of and leaving the wharf and in anchoring. It is respectfully recommended that the Department of Commerce and Labor be asked to extend the anchorage laws to Unalaska Bay and harbors, and that the commanding officer of the Bering Sea Fleet be made supervisor of anchorages there. There is also in the inner harbor of Unalaska the sunken wreck of a schooner, which materially reduces the available anchorage space. It is recommended that permission of the War Department be obtained for one of the patrol vessels to blow up this wreck.

There is also need of two post lights—a white light on the sand spit at the entrance to Dutch Harbor and a red light on the reef at the entrance to Unalaska Harbor. These post lights are inexpensive and could be cared for by the station force during the season and would be of great assistance to vessels making port at night.

Respectfully,

(Signed) D. P. FOLEY,
Senior Captain, U. S. Revenue-Cutter Service,
Commanding Bering Sea Fleet.

NOVEMBER 8, 1910.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your department of a letter dated November 3, transmitting for my information copy of extract from the report of Senior Capt. D. P. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, commanding the Bering Sea Fleet, upon the operations of the fleet for the season of 1910, and inviting my attention to the request of Senior Capt. Foley for decisions upon a number of questions.

Respectfully,

CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, December 28, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Referring to the department's recent request regarding the number of vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service engaged in the patrol of Bering Sea and the portion of the year devoted to this work, I have

the honor to state that during the calendar year 1910 three vessels were assigned, two of which remained about the islands during the full season, from June 1 to October 1, the other being wrecked in the latter part of July.

The number of cutters which performed patrol service in Alaskan waters during the 20 years from 1890 to 1909 has been stated by the Revenue-Cutter Service to be 55. That service states, however, that "all of these vessels were not exclusively engaged in patrol duty about the seal islands, as some of them performed various other duties in Alaskan waters, and it is hardly practicable, therefore, to separate the work." From the figures given it would seem that a yearly average of 2.75 vessels were engaged in this work. The patrol season usually occupies about four months of the year—from June 1 to September 30.

It may be suggested that if the cutters are not engaged on the Bering Sea patrol they will be actively employed elsewhere, so that, as far as this bureau is aware, no additional cost of maintenance is involved.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

PART III. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO APPRAISEMENT OF PROPERTY OF NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 7, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: You are directed hereby to confer with the North American Commercial Co., and, if possible, to arrive at a fair and just valuation to be placed upon the property of that company on the Pribilof Islands, with a view of the purchase of said property by the Government. You will report to the department the result of said conference.

Respectfully,

(Signed) GEORGE W. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 29, 1910.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 7th instant, in which I am instructed to confer with the North American Commercial Co., and, if possible, to arrive at a fair and just valuation to be placed on the property of that company on the Pribilof Islands, with a view to the purchase of said property by the Government, I now have the honor to inclose a list of said property showing the company's valuation thereon and my appraisement of it. No settlement can be made until an inventory of movable property on the islands can be taken,

which will be done upon my arrival there. The company will accept settlement according to the terms of the inclosed list.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Copy.]

INVENTORY NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO., ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA.

Arms and ammunition	$239.49		
Boots and shoes	1,086.89		
Carpets and furniture	28.59		
Cigars and tobacco	144.78		
Clothing	531.17		
Crockery, glass, and lamps	139.28		
Dry goods and notions	2,375.03		
Groceries and provisions	3,466.73		
Hardware and cutlery	695.77		
Hats and caps	82.52		
Lumber, sash, and doors	381.86		
Musical instruments and jewelry	189.20		
Paints, oil, and glass	676.94		
Ship chandlery	415.84		
Stationery	90.33		
Stoves and tinware	295.51	San Francisco invoice cost on island inventory of Apr. 30, 1910, corrected to date of transfer	$10,900.93
Wood and willow ware	61.00		
	10,900.93		
Tools and implements	3,594.71	50 per cent of inventory	1,797.35
Drugs and instruments	858.05	Inventory cost	858.05
Household furniture	3,010.48	25 per cent deduction from inventory	2,257.86
Dispensary furniture	172.66	25 per cent reduction from inventory	129.50
Boats and bidarrahs	4,152.06	Launch $2,000 Boat 400 Boat 275 3 bidarrahs, at $175 525	3,200.00
Telephone line	373.92	Lump sum	90.00
School supplies	310.56	Lump sum	257.00
Company buildings	25,683.45	50 per cent	12,841.72
Native buildings	17,269.11	50 per cent	8,634.55
Sea-lion skins	58.00	Inventory cost	58.00
Live stock	858.25	Inventory cost	858.25
Salt and seal twine	1,271.22	San Francisco invoice cost after inspection	1,271.22
Fox skins	66.00	Fox traps to be taken at valuation.	
Library	1,012.91	Lump sum	200.00
Wharf, ways, and derrick	804.63	50 per cent	402.31
Coal, 80 tons	1,600.00	$17 per ton	1,360.00
	71,996.94		45,116.74

Company buildings.

Company dwelling	$4,958.28
5,000-gallon water tank above on hill	250.00
2,800-gallon water tank under dwelling	100.00
1,800-gallon water tank south of kitchen	100.00
Store building and fixtures	2,332.83
Dispensary shelving and fixtures	503.24
Chicken house	100.60

Company buildings—Continued.

Schoolhouse	$2,080.39
Barn and stable	1,151.29
1,800-gallon water tank under stable	100.00
Shop building	2,883.44
1,800-gallon water tank side of shop	100.00
Blacksmith shop	52.58
Beef house	130.00
Ice house at the lake	100.00
Well house	250.00
Powder and oil house	300.00
Warehouse, old magazine	600.79
Warehouse, old store	906.08
Warehouse, east landing	76.28
Warehouse point at wharf	1,677.87
Salt house village	2,232.17
Salt house cove	1,408.50
Salt house, rear village salt house	500.00
Salt house, Rocky Point	302.43
Salt house, Northeast Point	1,430.49
Webster House, Northeast Point	350.00
Native watch house, Northeast Point	420.21
Native watch house, Otter Island	15.00
Native watch house, Zapadine	200.98
Flagstaff on Village Hill, west side	35.00
Flagstaff, east side	35.00
	25,683.45

Native dwellings.

Double:		Single—Continued.	
No. 1	$475.00	No. 29	$250.00
No. 2	475.00	No. 30	250.00
No. 3	475.00	No. 31	375.00
Single:		No. 32	250.00
No. 4	250.00	No. 33	250.00
No. 5	375.00	No. 34	250.00
No. 6	375.00	No. 35	375.00
No. 7	250.00	No. 36	250.00
No. 8	250.00	No. 37	250.00
No. 9	250.00	No. 38	250.00
No. 10	375.00	No. 39	250.00
No. 11	250.00	No. 40	250.00
No. 12, large	669.11	No. 41	375.00
No. 13	375.00	No. 42	250.00
No. 14	250.00	No. 43	400.00
No. 15	375.00	No. 44	250.00
No. 16	250.00	No. 46	400.00
No. 17	375.00	No. 47	250.00
No. 18	375.00	No. 48	250.00
No. 19	250.00	No. 49	400.00
No. 20	250.00	No. 50	250.00
No. 21	250.00	No. 51	250.00
No. 22	250.00	No. 52	250.00
No. 23	250.00	No. 53	250.00
No. 24	250.00	No. 54	250.00
No. 25	375.00	No. 55, large	400.00
No. 26	375.00	No. 56, large	450.00
No. 27	250.00		
No. 28	375.00	55 dwellings, total	17,269.11

Recapitulation.

33 dwellings, at $250	$8,250.00
13 dwellings, at $375	4,875.00
4 dwellings, at $400	1,600.00
1 dwelling, large, single	450.00
3 dwellings, double, at $475	1,425.00
1 dwelling, large, single	669.11
	17,269.11

INVENTORY NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO., ST. GEORGE ISLAND, ALASKA.

Arms and ammunition	$304.59		
Boots and shoes	394.41		
Clothing and furnishing	1,016.49		
Cordage and woodenware	564.67		
Crockery and glassware	89.49		
Dry goods	1,697.62		
Fancy goods	257.88		
Furniture and carpets	147.71		
Groceries	2,449.46		
Hats and caps	166.77		
Hardware	595.10		
Lamps and lamp goods	87.80		
Leather and findings	75.19		
Lumber and building materials	113.43		
Paints, oils, and glass	218.93		
Rubber goods	422.43		
Stationery	39.38		
Stoves and tinware	214.89		
Tobacco	134.86		
	8,991.10	San Francisco invoice cost on island inventory of Apr. 30, 1910, corrected to date of transfer	$8,991.10
Coal 25 tons	500.00	$17 per ton	425.00
Dispensary	703.32	50 per cent	351.66
Fox-skin account	17.00	Fox traps to be taken at valuation.	
Live-stock account	417.28	Inventory cost	417.28
Groceries in company house	594.96	San Francisco invoice cost	594.96
Salt and seal twine	310.40	San Francisco invoice cost after inspection	310.40
Sea-lion skins	63.71	Inventory cost	63.71
Boats and bidaras	1,215.96	Lump sum	700.00
Company buildings	11,604.04	50 per cent	5,802.02
Derrick and landing, including cars and track	1,737.23	50 per cent	868.61
Household and office furniture	2,043.63	25 per cent deduction from inventory	1,532.72
Library	670.64	Lump sum	100.00
Native dwellings	6,646.96	50 per cent	3,323.48
Telephone	297.25	50 per cent	148.62
Tools and implements	1,164.47	50 per cent	582.23
	36,977.95		24,211.79

Company buildings.

1. Barn	$753.45	12. Paint house	$101.12
2. Bidarrah house	1,001.50	13. Salt house	1,206.98
3. Carpenter shop	361.85	14. Schoolhouse	670.08
4. Silo	101.15	15. Sheep house and fence	80.60
5. Chicken house	42.78	16. Store	1,830.64
6. Cistern house	113.89	17. Warehouse	804.62
7. Coal house	380.83	18. Well house	25.00
8. Dwelling house	2,916.71	19. Zapadine house	100.00
9. Powder magazine	31.52	20. Zapadine salt house	850.00
10. Flagstaff	27.13		
11. Fox house	204.19		11,604.04

Native dwellings.

21	$329.31	34	$277.25
22	225.00	35	277.30
23	228.45	36	344.15
24	225.05	37	351.55
25	253.48	38	312.06
26	250.84	39	316.51
27	250.14	40	316.06
28	255.95	41	323.84
29	256.88	42	354.22
30	276.71	43	200.91
31	275.93	44/48 (5)	196.87
32	276.11		
33	272.39		6,646.96

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 9, 1910.

Memorandum to Dr. Evermann.

From what you know of the plant of the North American Commercial Co. on the Pribilof Islands, please give me your estimate of the sum that would probably be required for the Government to replace the same.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Copies to Messrs. Alexander, Marsh, and Chichester. List and inventory to be passed along.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, June 11, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER:

Complying with your request of 9th instant, to give you an estimate of the sum of money that would probably be required for the Government to replace the dwellings and other buildings on the islands of St. Paul and St. George, Pribilof group, we have to report as follows:

We assume that the prices given on the inventory sheets submitted for our consideration are the prices which the North American Commercial Co. paid the Alaska Commercial Co. for these buildings at the time the transfer was made. We also assume that the buildings actually cost the Alaska Commercial Co. more than these prices. The total amount of the inventory appears to be $61,203.56.

From our knowledge of these buildings and considering the increased cost of labor and building material as compared with conditions when these buildings were originally constructed, we are of the opinion that these buildings could not be replaced for less than $95,000. We wish to say in this connection that none of us presumes to be an expert in

matters of this kind, and we give the above figure simply as our best judgment.

Very respectfully,

BARTON W. EVERMANN.
A. B. ALEXANDER.
H. D. CHICHESTER.
M. C. MARSH.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS,
Chicago, June 13, 1910.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 10th instant inclosing a list and requesting me to give you my opinion as to the probable cost of replacing the plant of the North American Commercial Co. on the Pribilof Islands.

At the time I was on the islands my observations were made largely with a view to determining the treatment of the natives as to housing, etc., and conditions in general. I did not, at the time I made these observations, take into consideration the cost or value of the plant. I am, therefore, not in a position to express an opinion as to whether or not the values given on the list are fair values nor as to the probable cost of replacing the plant. All I can do is to give you some general observations.

My opinion, based upon my experience in making the trip, the landing at the islands, and on general conditions, is that it would cost the Government or anyone else a great deal more to erect a plant similar to that of the North American Commercial Co. on the Pribilof Islands than it would to erect a similar plant in any of the States.

The voyage to the islands is long and difficult, and after the vessel reaches there she is usually several hours and sometimes several days in finding the islands, which are almost always enveloped in a fog.

In the second place, there are no landing facilities at the islands, and all of the material taken up there would have to be lightered off in small boats. The only method I can think of for ascertaining the cost of the plant in question would be to figure the cost of the material and the construction plus the cost of getting it on the islands. This latter item would, in my judgment, be one of the largest items, and it occurs to me it is an item which I would want to look into very carefully before attempting to express any opinion in the matter. The cost of erecting a plant on the Pribilof Islands would be so much more than the cost at a point where transportation is available that one could not properly express any opinion without having it backed up by detailed information.

Very respectfully,

EDWIN M. SIMS,
United States Attorney.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
New York, June 15, 1910.

DEAR MR. COMMISSIONER: If the buildings in the accompanying list are in about the same condition as when last I saw them in 1900, I am of the opinion that the estimate is fair. I am viewing the situation as a whole. Some of the buildings may have greatly deteriorated. I should be inclined to refer details to the resident agents on the islands.

Most of the buildings are good enough for continued use. Many of the houses occupied by natives will still be serviceable if raised somewhat from the ground and refloored. All the houses of natives should be disinfected, improved, and enlarged.

New buildings could not, of course, be erected at anything like the figures quoted.

Very truly, yours, C. H. TOWNSEND,
Acting Director.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
United States Commissioner of Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

P. S.—For the information of your office, I will state that my address will be American Museum of Natural History until December 15.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM,
Washington, D. C., July 15, 1910.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your letter of July 10, requesting my estimate of what would be the probable cost of the North American Commercial Co.'s plant on the Pribilof Islands, as enumerated in the list herewith returned, if the Government should wish to replace it, I regret to say that my knowledge of the details of the plant, of the improvements made since my last visit there 14 years ago, and of the prices of lumber and labor on the Pacific coast, is so limited that it would be impracticable for me to mention offhand any definite sum. However, the prices placed opposite the various items on the list seem to me to be moderate, and I can truthfully say that I do not believe the Government could replace the plant for less than the sum listed.

Very respectfully, LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

THE MUSEUM,
THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,
Brooklyn, N. Y., June 18, 1910.

Mr. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I fear that my estimate of the cost of buildings on the Pribilof Islands is not of much importance, but, knowing something of the conditions of work, the cost of material, it seems to me that to replace the existing buildings on St. Paul and St. George Islands would

cost from two to three times the valuation given on the schedule. The buildings of the natives are, of course, very old and in poor condition. At the same time the valuation placed on them is small.

I am sorry I can not give you a more definite opinion, but am always willing to do the best I can.

Believe me,

Faithfully, yours,

F. A. LUCAS,
Curator in Chief.

PART IV. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO PERSONNEL OF INCREASED FORCE ON ISLANDS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 3, 1910.

Memorandum to the commissioner regarding employees required on seal islands.

I have carefully considered the number and character of the employees necessary to an efficient administration of affairs on the seal islands and the doing of the various kinds of work connected therewith. After conferring with the four agents and with various others who have been to the islands and are more or less familiar with the conditions I am convinced that it is not necessary to have upon the islands employees equaling the aggregate number previously employed by the lessee and the Government.

It is believed that, in addition to the four agents and the chief naturalist, the only regular employees required are one clerk, two teachers, two doctors, two stockmen, and two cooks.

The two stockmen would be natives, and the two cooks Chinese.

The personnel on the islands and the compensation would be as follows:

W. I. Lembkey, chief agent	$3,650*
James Judge, assistant agent	2,920*
H. D. Chichester, assistant agent	2,190*
Ezra W. Clark, assistant agent	2,190*
Chief naturalist (to be selected)	3,000*
A. H. Proctor, clerk	1,800
S. Melovidof, teacher	900
Teacher (to be selected)	1,200
H. C. Mills, doctor	1,200
Doctor (to be selected)	1,200
Native stockman	240
Native stockman	240
Chinese cook	780
Chinese cook	780

The salaries indicated by a star (*) are already fixed; the others are approximately those paid by the former lessee.

Respectfully submitted.

BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry.

Approved.

_____ _____,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 7, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: In the administration of the seal islands under the act approved April 21, 1910, the following employees will be necessary in addition to those already employed:

St. Paul:	
A. H. Proctor,[1] storekeeper and bookkeeper	$1,800
Simeon Melovidof,[1] school-teacher	900
H. C. Mills,[1] physician	1,200
———, ———, stockman	480
———, ———, cook	780
———, ———, chambermaid	180
St. George:	
———, ———, school-teacher	1,200
———, ———, physician	1,200
———, ———, cook	780
———, ———, stockman	300
———, ———, chambermaid	180
	9,000

These salaries are to be in addition to board furnished at the mess.

As the cooks, janitors, stockman, etc., will be either Chinese or natives, and as the names of the persons so to be employed can not be ascertained at present, it is believed that their employment should be left to the agent in charge of the islands.

I respectfully request that authority for the employment of the persons herein mentioned be granted, and for the employment of suitable persons to fill the positions mentioned herein for which the names of persons are not designated.

Respectfully, GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Letter dated May 11, 1910, to be considered in lieu of this letter.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

SIR: The act of Congress approved April 21, 1910 (Public No. 146), requires that the entire business of taking sealskins and administering the affairs of the Pribilof Islands will be done under the Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

As the details of carrying out this act of Congress have been assigned to the Bureau of Fisheries, I have to invite your attention to the fact that it will be necessary to employ a bookkeeper, storekeeper, school-teachers, physicians, stockmen, cooks and charwomen. The conditions are such on the islands that I am in doubt as to how best to secure persons to fill these places, therefore I have to recommend that I be authorized to temporarily employ such persons as may be necessary to begin the new administration, upon requisitions

[1] No papers.

as is done for temporary employees in the administration of the field service of the Bureau of Fisheries, until such time as the agent in charge returns next fall with data upon which specific recommendations can be made.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

This letter is to be considered in lieu of letter dated May 7, 1910.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 9, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to request that Mr. Harry D. Chichester, assistant agent, Alaskan seal fisheries, be designated as special disbursing agent in the Department of Commerce and Labor, giving sufficient bond to permit the placing in his custody of Government moneys to the amount of $2,000 for expenditure in connection with the protection of the seal fisheries of Alaska.

The reasons for this request are the following: Mr. Chichester's work is for a considerable portion of each year on the Pribilof Islands, which are remotely situated and with which mail facilities are very poor, and, therefore, the settlement of certain accounts in the usual manner is impracticable. Funds immediately available on the islands will be necessary with which to pay for labor and for other purposes in order to put into effect the act approved April 21, 1910, to protect the seal fisheries of Alaska.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Harry D. Chichester, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

HARRY D. CHICHESTER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of May, A. D. 1910.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

Bureau or office to which assigned: ———

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

SIR: Upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Fisheries you are hereby appointed, under the provisions of section 3614, United States Revised Statutes, a special disbursing agent of this department, without additional compensation, for the disbursement of moneys from the appropriation "For protecting seal fisheries of Alaska."

You will, before entering upon the duties of this office, execute a bond on the form inclosed herewith in the penal sum of $5,000, with sufficient sureties, conditioned upon the faithful performance of your duties, and forward the same to the department for examination, approval, and file.

Great care should be exercised in filling out the form, and the instructions on the first page of the bond should be carefully read before you attempt to execute the same. Return the signature cards with the executed bond.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE, *Acting Secretary.*

Mr. HARRY D. CHICHESTER,
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

SIR: Referring to the act of Congress approved August 5, 1909, regarding the rates of premium which surety companies may charge for executing bonds of Government officers, the department incloses herewith a copy of the act mentioned and states for your information that a majority of the special disbursing agents of other bureaus of the department who are bonded in the sum of $5,000 paid $7.50 for their bonds in 1908.

In returning to the department your executed bond, assuming that it is executed by a surety company, please forward also the premium receipt which you receive from the surety company.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE, *Acting Secretary.*

Mr. HARRY D. CHICHESTER,
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

Mr. HARRY D. CHICHESTER,
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: To enable this department to verify your indorsement of Treasury warrants payable to you or your order, in your official capacity, you are hereby required to fill in the inclosed cards, in triplicate, in your own handwriting, giving your official signature, official title, residence, and date of signing. The signature on the card, indicated with an X, should correspond with the signature on the bond, which will be regarded as your official signature; and your signatures to official papers and your indorsements on the United States Treasury warrants should in all cases correspond as nearly as possible with your official signature.

After being properly filled in, the cards should be returned to this office with the bond.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Through the Commissioner of Fisheries.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 14, 1910.

SIR: The department has approved your official bond as special disbursing agent appropriation "For protecting seal fisheries of Alaska," given in the penal sum of $5,000 and bearing date of May 12, 1910.

Respectfully,

(Signed) BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. HARRY D. CHICHESTER
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 9, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to request that Mr. Walter I. Lembkey, agent Alaskan seal fisheries, be designated as special disbursing agent in the Department of Commerce and Labor, giving sufficient bond to permit the placing in his custody of Government moneys to the amount of $2,000 for expenditure in connection with the protection of the seal fisheries of Alaska.

The reasons for this request are the following: Mr. Lembkey's work is for a considerable portion of each year on the Pribilof Islands, which are remotely situated and with which mail facilities are very poor, and, therefore, the settlement of certain accounts in the usual

manner is impracticable. Funds immediately available on the islands will be necessary with which to pay for labor and for other purposes in order to put into effect the act approved April 21, 1910, to protect the seal fisheries of Alaska.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

SIR: Upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Fisheries, you are hereby appointed, under the provisions of section 3614, United States Revised Statutes, a special disbursing agent of this department, without additional compensation, for the disbursement of moneys from the appropriation "For protecting seal fisheries of Alaska."

You will before entering upon the duties of this office execute a bond on the form inclosed herewith, in the penal sum of $5,000 with sufficient sureties conditioned upon the faithful performance of your duties, and forward the same to the department for examination, approval, and file.

Great care should be exercised in filling out the forms, and the instructions on the first page of the bond should be carefully read before you attempt to execute the same. Return the signature cards with the executed bond.

Respectfully,

(Signed) BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries),
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: To enable this department to verify your indorsement of Treasury warrants payable to you, or your order, in your official capacity, you are hereby required to fill in the inclosed cards, in triplicate, in your own handwriting, giving your official signature, official title, residence, and date of signing. The signature on the card, indicated with an X, should correspond with the signature on the bond, which will be regarded as your official signature; and your signatures to official papers and your indorsements on the United States Treasury warrants should in all cases correspond as nearly as possible with your official signature.

After being properly filled in, the cards should be returned to this office with the bond.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Through the Commissioner of Fisheries.
Inclosure No. 362.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

SIR: Referring to the act of Congress approved August 5, 1909, regarding the rates of premium which surety companies may charge for executing bonds of Government officers, the department incloses herewith a copy of the act mentioned, and states for your information that a majority of the special disbursing agents of other bureaus of the department who are bonded in the sum of $5,000 paid $7.50 for their bonds in 1908.

In returning to the department your executed bond, assuming that it is executed by a surety company, please forward also the receipt which you receive from the surety company.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries),
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

Inclosure No. 362.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Walter I. Lembkey, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

WALTER I. LEMBKEY.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of May, A. D. 1910.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

Bureau or office to which assigned: Fisheries.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 14, 1910.

SIR: The department has approved your official bond as special disbursing agent appropriation "For protecting seal fisheries of

Alaska," given in the penal sum of $5,000 and bearing date of May 12, 1910.

Respectfully,

(Signed) BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 9, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to request that Mr. James Judge, assistant agent Alaskan seal fisheries, be designated as special disbursing agent in the Department of Commerce and Labor, giving sufficient bond to permit the placing in his custody of Government moneys to the amount of $2,000 for expenditure in connection with the protection of the seal fisheries of Alaska.

The reasons for this request are the following: Mr. Judge's work is for a considerable portion of each year on the Pribilof Islands, which are remotely situated and with which mail facilities are very poor, and, therefore, the settlement of certain accounts in the usual manner is impracticable. Funds immediately available on the islands will be necessary with which to pay for labor and for other purposes in order to put into effect the act approved April 21, 1910, to protect the seal fisheries of Alaska.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 10, 1910.

SIR: You are hereby appointed as assistant agent at seal fisheries in Alaska, with compensation of $2,920 per annum.

This appointment will take effect May 10, 1910.

Payment of the compensation herein authorized is subject to the oath of office being taken.

(By change from assistant Treasury agent for seal fisheries of Alaska. Position transferred to this department by act of Feb. 14, 1903.)

Respectfully,

(Signed) BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

(Appropriation: Salaries, agents at seal fisheries in Alaska.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

SIR: Upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Fisheries you are hereby appointed, under the provisions of section 3614, United States Revised Statutes, a special disbursing agent of this department, without additional compensation, for the disbursement of moneys from the appropriation "For protecting seal fisheries of Alaska."

Before entering upon the duties of this office you will execute a bond on the form inclosed herewith in the penal sum of $5,000, with sufficient sureties conditioned upon the faithful performance of your duties and forward the same to the department for examination, approval, and file.

Great care should be exercised in filling out the forms, and the instructions on the first page of the bond should be carefully read before you attempt to execute the same. Return the signature cards with the executed bond.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE, *Acting Secretary.*

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE,
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: To enable this department to verify your indorsement of Treasury warrants payable to you, or your order, in your official capacity, you are hereby required to fill in the inclosed cards, in triplicate, in your own handwriting, giving your official signature, official title, residence, and date of signing. The signature on the card indicated with an X should correspond with the signature on the bond, which will be regarded as your official signature; and your signatures to official papers and your indorsements on the United States Treasury warrants should in all cases correspond as nearly as possible with your official signature.

After being properly filled in, the cards should be returned to this office with the bond.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Through the Commissioner of Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, James Judge, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I

take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

JAMES JUDGE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of July, A. D. 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

Bureau or office to which assigned: Bureau of Fisheries.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, August 5, 1910.

SIR: The department has approved your official bond as special disbursing agent, appropriation "For protecting seal fisheries of Alaska," given in the penal sum of $5,000 and bearing date of May 13, 1910.

Respectfully, (Signed) CHARLES EARL,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. JAMES JUDGE
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 9, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to request that Mr. Ezra W. Clark, assistant agent, Alaskan seal fisheries, be designated as special disbursing agent in the Department of Commerce and Labor, giving sufficient bond to permit the placing in his custody of Government moneys to the amount of $2,000 for expenditure in connection with the protection of the seal fisheries of Alaska.

The reasons for this request are the following: Mr. Clark's work is for a considerable portion of each year on the Pribilof Islands, which are remotely situated and with which mail facilities are very poor, and, therefore, the settlement of certain accounts in the usual manner is impracticable. Funds immediately available on the islands will be necessary with which to pay for labor and for other purposes in order to put into effect the act approved April 21, 1910, to protect the seal fisheries of Alaska.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

SIR: Upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Fisheries, you are hereby appointed under the provisions of section 3614, United States Revised Statutes, a special disbursing agent of this department, without additional compensation, for the disbursement of moneys from the appropriation "For protecting seal fisheries of Alaska."

Before entering upon the duties of this office, you will execute a bond on the form inclosed herewith, in the penal sum of $5,000, with sufficient sureties conditioned upon the faithful performance of your duties and forward the same to the department for examination, approval, and file.

Great care should be exercised in filling out the forms, and the instructions on the first page of the bond should be carefully read before you attempt to execute the same. Return the signature cards with the executed bond.

Respectfully, (Signed) BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries),
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 11, 1910.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK,
Special Disbursing Agent,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: To enable this department to verify your indorsement of Treasury warrants payable to you, or your order, in your official capacity, you are hereby required to fill in the inclosed cards, in triplicate, in your own handwriting, giving your official signature, official title, residence, and date of signing. The signature on the card indicated with an X should correspond with the signature on the bond, which will be regarded as your official signature; and your signatures to official papers and your indorsements on the United States Treasury warrants should in all cases correspond as nearly as possible with your official signature.

After being properly filled in, the cards should be returned to this office with the bond.

Respectfully, BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

Through the Commissioner of Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Ezra W. Clark, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

EZRA W. CLARK.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of June, A. D. 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

Bureau or office to which assigned: ———.

AUGUST 25, 1910.

SIR: The department has approved your official bond as special disbursing agent, appropriation "For protecting seal fisheries of Alaska," given in the penal sum of $5,000 and bearing date of May 13, 1910.

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully,

A. GORDON CUMMING,
Chief Clerk.

Mr. EZRA W. CLARK
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

JUNE 6, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
216 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Can you find physician at twelve hundred? None available here.

BOWERS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 19, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: The act of Congress "to protect the seal fisheries of Alaska and for other purposes," approved April 21, 1910, provides in section 9 that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall have authority to appoint such additional officers, agents, and employees as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and in the same section the Secretary is likewise given authority to provide among other things for the education of the native inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands. It will therefore be necessary to employ one or more school-teachers.

I have the honor to recommend the employment or appointment of Rev. Ned. B. Campbell as school-teacher on the island of St. George at a salary of $900 per annum. Mr. Campbell is believed to possess all of the educational qualities necessary for the position and in addition is competent to perform clerical duties. Mr. Campbell is in position to proceed without delay to Alaska.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 20, 1910.

SIR: Receipt is acknowledged of the bureau's letter of the 19th instant recommending "the employment or appointment of Rev. Ned B. Campbell as school-teacher on the Island of St. George at a salary of $900 per annum."

It was represented to the department that the bureau would employ in the additional positions mentioned in section 9 of the act approved April 21, 1910, those persons who had been previously employed upon the same work by the North American Commercial Co., and the department's request upon the Civil Service Commission for authority to employ these persons was so framed that there could be no misunderstanding as to the bureau's intention.

The department desires a statement from the bureau showing whether Mr. Campbell has ever been employed by the company above mentioned, and if not, why the bureau did not recommend some person who had been so employed.

Under the terms of the commission's letter of the 19th instant, the contents of which have been communicated to the bureau, it will be necessary to obtain antecedent authority from the commission for the employment of the school-teacher or school-teachers, and this authority can only be granted under the provisions of Schedule A, subdivision 1, Section IX of the rules.

Respectfully,

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 20, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Replying to the department's letter relative to the employment or appointment of Rev. Ned. B. Campbell as school-teacher on the Island of St. George at a salary of $900 per annum, I have the honor to say that the bureau's letter of May 11 contained no inference that the employees who would be required on the Pribilof Islands were necessarily to be selected from those people who had previously been in the service of the North American Commercial Co. Neither is it conceivable that the Government is under any obligations to give these

people employment. It is the intention, however, to make selections from this force as far as is consistent with good administration and the obtaining of competent employees.

Section 9 of the act approved April 21 gives the Secretary full authority to appoint such additional officers, agents, and employees as may be necessary to carry into effect the act. It says nothing about appointing persons who may have been in the employ of the North American Commercial Co.

The school-teachers employed by the North American Commercial Co. have not been recommended to me, but, on the other hand, there is inclosed herewith a memorandum from the seal agent, Mr. Lembkey, heartily recommending Mr. Campbell, and a communication from Mr. Chichester, one of the assistant seal agents, relative to the qualifications of the school-teacher who was in the employ of the company, which explain themselves.

The bureau conceives that it is its duty to make the best selections possible for all positions necessary to carry out the provisions of the act of April 21 irrespective of the previous status of the persons chosen.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 17, 1910.

Memorandum in re employment of school-teacher for St. George Island, Alaska.

Under the act of April 21, 1910, which requires the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to provide for the education of the native inhabitants on the Pribilof Islands, it will be necessary to employ a school-teacher for St. George Island.

For this position I respectfully recommend the employment of Mr. Ned B. Campbell, who I believe possesses all of the educational qualities necessary for the position, and in addition can be used to advantage in performing clerical duties. Mr. Campbell has assured me of his willingness to accept and to proceed at once to Alaska.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 20, 1910.

Memorandum in re school-teacher on St. George Island.

The present school-teacher on St. George Island, in my opinion, lacks the necessary educational qualifications to fill the position of teacher or to take charge of the island accounts. It is therefore necessary to send some one at once who is competent to carry on this work.

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent.

GENERAL APPOINTMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, May 25, 1910.

SIR: You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office, school-teacher (St. George, Pribilof Islands, Alaska) in the service of the Bureau of Fisheries at a salary of $1,200 per annum, effective beginning May 25, 1910, or as soon thereafter as you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position. (New position.)

In addition to the compensation stated above, your actual and necessary expenses of travel from Washington, D. C., to St. George, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, and return, including subsistance while en route and on said island, will be reimbursed you.

(In accordance with the provisions of Schedule A, subdivision I, sec. 9, civil-service rules.)

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully, A. H. BALDWIN, *Chief Clerk.*

REV. NED B. CAMPBELL (through the Commissioner of Fisheries).
Appropriation: Protecting seal fisheries of Alaska.

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 17, 1906.

To the chiefs of bureaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor:

For the purpose of enabling the department to maintain a complete record of its officers and employees. you are requested to have every person hereafter appointed or employed in your bureau, immediately upon his entrance on duty, answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. The officer in immediate charge should review the information given by the appointee or employee, and if correct, should forward the form to the chief of the bureau without delay. The information called for by the questions in Part II should then be supplied and the form forwarded to the department.

OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

Part I.

(Part I should be executed by the appointee or employee; but, if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case the statement should be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any question, he should indicate that fact.)

1. What is your full name? (Do not use initials, but spell out each name and state whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Example: Mr. John Richard Doe.) Neddie Burns Campbell.
2. How do you write your name on the pay roll? (This should agree with signature to your oath of office.) Ned. B. Campbell.
3. What is your present legal (voting) residence? (Give city or town, State or Territory, county, and congressional district.) Martinsburg, W. Va.; Berkeley; second.
4. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or Mongolian.") White.
5. Where were you born? Near Martinsburg, W. Va.
6. When were you born? March 31, 1867.

7. Are you pensioned by the United States Government? (Answer "Yes" or "No.") No.

8. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below their names, relationships, the departments and bureaus or services in which they are employed, and the positions they occupy.) None.

9. If you were appointed through a civil-service examination, state as near as you recollect the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "By reinstatement," or "by transfer from ———." stating department, bureau or service, position, and salary, if known.) ———.

10. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.) None.

11. Have you ever held any other position in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below the department and bureau or service in which you served, the position held, the salary you received, and the dates of your appointment and separation from the service.) None.

12. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American War? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) No.

13. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time other than during the Civil or Spanish-American Wars, indicate such service in the spaces below. ———.

14. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service for the Government indicated in your answers to questions 11, 12, and 13.) Preaching.

15. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.) Hampden Sidney College and Union Theological Seminary.

16. What special qualifications have you—professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "lawyer," or "civil engineer," or "draftsman," or "carpenter.") As above.

17. What, if any, civil-service examinations have you passed? (Give names and dates as near as you recollect.) None.

18. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.) Yes.

19. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. May 27, 1910.

NED. B. CAMPBELL,
St. George Island, Alaska.

Part II.

(Part II should be executed by the executive officers of the various bureaus of the department, or, at their direction, by some official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.)

1. State the bureau or service, place, and district in which the person who answered the foregoing questions is employed. Fisheries, St. George, Pribilof Islands.

2. To what position has he been appointed? School-teacher.

3. State the date of appointment. May 25, 1910.

4. State the date the appointment was effective. (If appointment was made to take effect on date of oath, so state.) May 27, 1910.

5. State the date of the oath. May 27, 1910.

6. State the date the appointee or employee entered on duty. May 27, 1910.

7. What is his salary? Nine hundred dollars per annum.

8. From what appropriation is he paid? Protecting seal fisheries of Alaska.

9. Is the position excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil-service rules? Excepted.

10. If classified, state the date of classification.

11. In what manner did the appointee or employee enter the service? (Examples: "From stenography and typewriting examination"; or "without examination"; or "by reinstatement"; or "by transfer from ———," stating department, bureau, or service, position, and salary, if known.) Without examination.

12. Is the appointee or employee required to give bond? No.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

MAY 28, 1910.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Ned. B. Campbell, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

NED. B. CAMPBELL.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of May, 1910.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

OFFICE OF AGENT SEAL FISHERIES,
St. Paul Island, Alaska, July 3, 1910.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Conformably to the verbal arrangement made previous to my departure from Washington, I have the honor to report that the following temporary employees, formerly in the employ of the North American Commercial Co., have been retained.

On St. George.

Name.	Annual salary.	Position.	Period.
James Murtha	$1,200	Storekeeper	Until fall.
C. M. Cunningham	1,200	Physician	Do.
——— (Chinese)	720	Cook	Do.
M. Lestenkof	300	Stockman	Indefinitely
Selected natives	240	Janitor Government house	Do.
Do	180	Janitor company house	Do.

I was forced to hire Murtha for about two months to assist Maj. Clark with the inventory, stock of merchandise, and bookkeeping, and to instruct Mr. Campbell in the above duties. Dr. Cunningham is a partial invalid and not adaptable to other work than his profession, but I was obliged to retain him until fall or to allow the island to be without a physician, a condition highly undesirable. The cutter doctors are available only at infrequent intervals. The cook wished to leave immediately, but was persuaded to remain until September, when he will leave on the *Homer*.

It must be understood that the duties of sealing, taking inventory, opening new books, storing and caring for merchandise, and the transfer of the property all fall within a period of about five weeks. It would have been impossible for Maj. Clark and Mr. Campbell, who, although capable, is unused to these duties, to have performed them without temporary assistance, which I secured in the person of Murtha, who at first desired to leave at once.

It will be necessary to provide a Chinese cook and a physician for St. George Island, to arrive on the second trip of the *Homer*.

On St. Paul.

Name.	Annual salary.	Position.	Period.
A. H. Proctor	$1,800	Store and book keeper	Indefinite.
S. Melovidof	1,200	School-teacher	Do.
H. C. Mills	1,200	Physician	(?)
—— (Chinese)	720	Cook	Indefinite.
N. Bogadanof	300	Stockman	Do.
Selected natives	240	Janitor Government house	Do.
Do	180	Janitor company house	Do.

In regard to the above employees, Mr. Proctor was willing to remain, and at once began to assume charge of his duties as bookkeeper in charge of merchandise under the new conditions. His experience renders his services invaluable at this time. Simeon Melovidof, although about to remove with his family to San Francisco, will remain as school-teacher and assistant storekeeper. Dr. Mills, having served his agreed time of two years upon this island, will have to return to San Francisco, unless his wife, who is awaiting him anxiously, will join him on St. Paul, in which case he will stay another winter. As to him, I will inform you by wire, if possible, in time to arrange for a relief if necessary.

Wing, the Chinese cook on St. Paul, must return to China this fall, having been away from his family for several years. He has promised me that he will return to the islands next spring. The laundryman on St. Paul, however, is a cook, and will take Wing's place during the winter. Wing will remain until the second trip of the *Homer*, and the laundryman will be loaned to Dutch Harbor until that time, at no expense to us.

The salaries mentioned are the same as those paid by the late lessee, except that its stockman was paid $720. I have endeavored as far as possible to maintain the same conditions as prevailed heretofore, as the lessee's system was evolved from 40 years' careful experimentation, and to allay the distrust of the natives who had received the impression that, under the new conditions, they would be slaves to this Government, as they were formerly under Russian control.

In respect to the matters heretofore outlined, having received no written instructions, I have been guided by the verbal understanding mentioned and my best judgment. I respectfully request approval of my action.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 30, 1910.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Chief Agent Fur-Seal Service,
St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 3d instant, reporting the temporary arrangements and assignments which you have made regarding storekeepers, physicians, cooks, stockmen,

janitors, etc., on the islands. Your temporary assignments are approved, except as to Maj. Clark.

It is understood that James Murtha, C. N. Cunningham, and Assistant Agent Clark will leave the islands by the last steamer. In the event that Dr. Mills should not consent to remain another year on St. Paul, you are instructed to assign Dr. de Figaniere to St. Paul instead of to St. George. Dr. Chichester in that case would have to act both as agent and doctor for St. George. According to this arrangement, the assignments for the two islands would be as follows:

St. George Island.—Dr. H. D. Chichester, assistant agent and for the time being acting doctor (in the event that Dr. P. A. de Figaniere is assigned to St. Paul to relieve Dr. Mills; otherwise Dr. de Figaniere is assigned to St. George); Ben Campbell, school-teacher; M. Lestenkof, stockman; Chinese cook; native janitor for Government house; native janitor for company house.

St. Paul Island.—James Judge, assistant agent; Dr. Walter L. Hahn, naturalist; Dr. P. A. de Figaniere, doctor, or H. C. Mills, if he should consent to remain; S. Melovidof, school-teacher; N. Bogadanof, stockman; Chinese cook; native janitor for Government house; native janitor for company house.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 6, 1910.

SIR: Referring to the bureau's letter of October 1, 1909, in the case of Ezra W. Clark, assistant agent at seal fisheries in Alaska, to the effect that it would not be practicable to transfer him to another position at that time, for the reason that he had left for a year's tour of duty in Alaska, but that his case would be borne in mind for the future, the department will be pleased to be advised whether the bureau is now in a position to submit a recommendation looking toward the final disposition of Mr. Clark's case.

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully,

(Signed) A. H. BALDWIN,
Chief Clerk.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, July 11, 1910.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Replying to the department's letter of July 6, relative to Mr. Ezra W. Clark, I have the honor to call attention to the bureau's letter of October 1, 1909. The bureau has no further recommendation to make than that therein contained. Mr. Clark's services have been

eminently satisfactory in every respect, and the only reason that the case was ever mentioned by the bureau was in the hope that at some time it might be possible to transfer him to a position carrying with it equal responsibility and pay to that which he now holds but in a less rigorous climate than that of Alaska. It is probable that such an opportunity will not occur in this bureau.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
APPOINTMENT DIVISION,
Washington, July 14, 1910.

Memorandum for the Acting Secretary:

In July, 1909, Ezra W. Clark, assistant agent at seal fisheries in Alaska, with pay at the rate of $2,190 per annum, was rated 10/10 on quantity and excellent on quality and interest manifested, but the statement was made that "on account of his age and the peculiar conditions obtaining on the seal islands, it is thought Mr. Clark should be transferred to some suitable position elsewhere than Alaska."

When this report was considered by the committee that reviewed the efficiency reports, it was decided that the bureau should submit a recommendation as soon as possible in line with the statement just quoted.

On October 1, 1909, the bureau made the following report:

> Mr. Clark's services have been eminently satisfactory; he takes great interest in his work, and is thoroughly competent, but on account of his age (69) it would seem proper that duty be given him in some place where the climate is less rigorous and the surroundings more suitable. It is probable that immediate action will not be practicable as Mr. Clark has recently left for a year's tour of duty in Alaska, but it is hoped that the case will be borne in mind for the future.

In reply to the department's inquiry of the 6th instant, requesting the bureau to state whether Mr. Clark's case could now be disposed of, the commissioner calls attention to his letter of October 1, 1909, and states that—

> The bureau has no further recommendation to make than that therein contained. Mr. Clark's services have been eminently satisfactory in every respect and the only reason that the case was ever mentioned by the bureau was in the hope that at some time it might be possible to transfer him to a position carrying with it equal responsibility and pay to that which he now holds but in a less rigorous climate than that of Alaska. It is probable that such an opportunity will not occur in this bureau.

It is apparent from the foregoing report that there are no immediate prospects of effecting a suitable transfer for Mr. Clark. It would seem, however, that the bureau should be requested to find a place for him in a less rigorous climate at the earliest practicable date.

GEO. W. LEADLEY,
Chief of Appointment Division.

Approved.—B. S. C.

7/15/10. Dr. Leadley said this case could now be regarded as closed as far as the efficiency records are concerned.—F.

Wrote bureau 7/15/10.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 15, 1910.

SIR: Receipt is acknowledged of the bureau's letter of the 11th instant relative to the case of Ezra W. Clark, which has been under consideration on account of the remarks set forth in his efficiency report of July, 1909.

The department has carefully noted your statements with respect to Mr. Clark, and requests that you endeavor to find a place for him in a less rigorous climate at the earliest practical date.

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully,

(Signed) A. GORDON-CUMMING,
Chief Clerk.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 17, 1910.

SIR: You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office and to actual entrance upon duty (unless on authorized leave) on the date indicated, naturalist in the Alaska fur-seal service of the Bureau of Fisheries, at a salary of $3,000 per annum, effective September 10, 1910 (vice Harold Heath).

(In accordance with the provisions of Schedule A, subdivision I, sec. 9, civil-service rules.)

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully,

A. GORDON-CUMMING,
Acting Chief Clerk.

Mr. WALTER L. HAHN
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

Appropriation: "Salaries, Alaska seal fisheries."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Walter L. Hahn, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

WALTER L. HAHN.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23d day of July, A. D. 1910.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

Bureau or office to which assigned: Fisheries.

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 17, 1906.

To the chiefs of bureaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor:

For the purpose of enabling the department to maintain a complete record of its officers and employees, you are requested to have every person hereafter appointed or employed in your bureau, immediately upon his entrance on duty, answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. The officer in immediate charge should review the information given by the appointee or employee, and if correct should forward the form to the chief of the bureau without delay. The information called for by the questions in Part II should then be supplied and the form forwarded to the department.

OSCAR S. STRAUS, *Secretary.*

Part I.

(Part I should be executed by the appointee or employee; but, if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case the statement should be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any questions, he should indicate that fact.)

1. What is your full name? (Do not use initials, but spell out each name and state whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Example: Mr. John Richard Doe.) Mr. Walter Louis Hahn.

2. How do you write your name on the pay roll? (This should agree with signature to your oath of office.) Walter L. Hahn.

3. What is your present legal (voting) residence? (Give city or town, State or Territory, county, and congressional district.) Springfield, S. Dak.; Bonhomme; S. Dak.

4. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.") White.

5. Where were you born? Bascom, Ind.

6. When were you born? May 20, 1879.

7. Are you pensioned by the United States Government? (Answer "Yes" or "No.") No.

8. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below their names, relationship, the departments and bureaus, or services in which they are employed, and the positions they occupy.) None.

9. If you were appointed through civil service examination, state, as near as you recollect, the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "By reinstatement" or "by transfer from ———," stating department, bureau, or service, position, and salary, if known.) Scientific assistant, Bureau of Fisheries, March 30, 1910.

10. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.) None.

11. Have you ever held any other position in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below the department and bureau or service in which you served, the position held, the salary you received, and the dates of your appointment and separation from the service.) Aid, United States National Museum; $720 per annum. Appointed July 1, 1903; resigned September, 1906.

12. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American War? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) No.

13. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time other than during the Civil or Spanish-American Wars, indicate such service in the spaces below. No.

14. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service for the Government, indicated in your answers to questions 11, 12, and

13.) Student and fellow, Indiana University; professor of biology, State Normal School, Springfield, S. Dak.

15. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.) Public school; high school; Indiana University, A. B., 1903; A. M., 1907; Ph. D., 1908.

16. What special qualifications have you—professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "lawyer," or "civil engineer," or "draftsman," or "carpenter.") Qualified as zoologist.

17. What, if any, civil service examinations have you passed? (Give names and dates as near as you recollect.) Aid, United States National Museum, March, 1903; scientific assistant, Department of Agriculture, 1905; scientific assistant, Bureau of Fisheries, 1910.

18. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.) Yes.

19. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. July 23, 1910.

WALTER L. HAHN,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

Reviewed, approved, and forwarded July 23, 1910.

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

Part II.

(Part II should be executed by the executive officers of the various bureaus of the department, or, at their direction, by some official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.)

1. State the bureau or service, place, and district in which the person who answered the foregoing questions is employed. Fisheries; Pribilof Islands.

2. To what position has he been appointed? Naturalist.

3. State the date of appointment. July 19, 1910.

4. State the date the appointment was effective. (If appointment was made to take effect on date of oath, so state.) September 10, 1910.

5. State the date of the oath. July 23, 1910.

6. State the date the appointee or employee entered on duty. Appointment effective September 10, 1910, when he will enter on duty.

7. What is his salary? $3,000 per annum.

8. From what appropriation is he paid? Alaskan seal fisheries.

9. Is the position excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil-service rules? Competitive.

10. If classified, state the date of classification. June 25, 1910.

11. In what manner did the appointee or employee enter the service? Examples: "From stenography and typewriting examination"; or "without examination"; or "by reinstatement"; or "by transfer from ———", stating department, bureau or service, position, and salary, if known. Scientific assistants' examination.

12. Is the appointee or employee required to give bond? No.

I. H. DUNLAP,
Chief Clerk and Acting Commissioner.

JULY 23, 1910.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, July 25, 1910.

SIR: You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office, physician in the service of the Bureau of Fisheries (Pribilof Islands, Alaska), at a salary of $1,200 per annum, effective beginning July 25, 1910, or as soon thereafter as you enter upon duty in the above-mentioned position. (New position.)

In addition to the compensation stated above, your actual and necessary expenses of travel from Washington, D. C., to the Pribilof

Islands, Alaska, and return, including subsistence while en route and on said islands, will be reimbursed you.

(In accordance with the provisions of Schedule A, subdivision I, sec. 9, civil-service rules.)

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully, A. GORDON-CUMMING,
Acting Chief Clerk.

Mr. PEDRO A. DE FIGANIERE
(Through the Commissioner of Fisheries).

Appropriation: "Protecting seal fisheries of Alaska."

PERSONAL QUESTION SHEET.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 17, 1906.

To the chiefs of bureaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor:

For the purpose of enabling the department to maintain a complete record of its officers and employees, you are requested to have every person hereafter appointed or employed in your bureau, immediately upon his entrance on duty, answer each of the questions in Part I of this form and sign the same. The officer in immediate charge should review the information given by the appointee or employee, and if correct, should forward the form to the chief of the bureau without delay. The information called for by the questions in Part II should then be supplied and the form forwarded to the department.

OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary.

Part I.

(Part I should be executed by the appointee or employee; but, if he is unable to write legibly, another person may write the answers at his dictation. In either case the statement should be signed by the appointee or employee. If he is unable to write, he may sign by mark in the presence of one witness. If he is unable to answer any question, he should indicate that fact.)

1. What is your full name? (Do not use initials, but spell out each name and state whether Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Example: Mr. John Richard Doe.) Dr. Pedro Alcantara de Figaniere.
2. How do you write your name on the pay roll? (This should agree with signature to your oath of office.) Pedro A. de Figaniere.
3. What is your present legal (voting) residence? (Give city or town, State or Territory, county, and congressional district.) North East, Md.; Cecil.
4. What is your race? (Answer "white," "colored," or "Mongolian.") White.
5. Where were you born? Zion, Cecil County, Md.
6. When were you born? July 19, 1883.
7. Are you pensioned by the United States Government? (Answer "Yes" or "No.") No.
8. Are there any members of your family, besides yourself, in the civil srevice of the United States? (If so, give below their names, relationships, the departments and bureaus or services in which they are employed, and the positions they occupy.) None.
9. If you were appointed through a civil-service examination, state, as near as you recollect, the name and date of the examination. If not so appointed, state how you entered the service. (Examples: "By reinstatement," or "by transfer from——," stating department, bureau, or service, position, and salary, if known.) ———

10. Have you any physical disabilities? (If so, describe briefly. If you have defective eyesight, state whether corrected by glasses.) No.

11. Have you ever held any other position in the civil service of the United States? (If so, give below the department and bureau or service in which you served, the position held, the salary you received, and the dates of your appointment and separation from the service.) No.

12. Were you in the military or naval service of the United States during the Civil or Spanish-American War? (If so, give the information called for by the blanks below.) No.

13. If you served in the military or naval service of the United States at any time other than during the Civil or Spanish-American Wars, indicate such service in the spaces below. Medical Corps, United States Navy; enlisted October 5, 1908; discharged April 21, 1909; failure on examination.

14. What was your occupation prior to entering the United States civil service? (It is intended that the answer to this question shall state briefly the lines of work followed by you before receiving your present appointment, with the exception of your service for the Government, indicated in your answers to questions 11, 12, and 13.) Interne, University of Virginia Hospital, Charlottesville, Va.; resident physician, Tuberculosis Hospital, District of Columbia.

15. What education have you received? (Indicate the grades of schools you have attended, and, in case you have attended schools of higher grade than high schools, give the institution, degrees received, and date in each case. Example: Public school; high school; business college; Cornell University, A. B., 1900; Columbia University, LL. B., 1903.) Public school; preparatory school; University of Virginia, 1908.

16. What special qualifications have you—professional, technical, mechanical, etc.? (Examples: Qualified as "lawyer," or "civil engineer," or "draftsman," or "carpenter.") Physician.

17. What, if any, civil-service examinations have you passed? (Give names and dates as near as you recollect.) None.

18. Were the answers to the foregoing questions written by you? (If not, state the name and address of the person who wrote them for you.) Yes.

19. State the date upon which the above blanks were filled. July 26.

PEDRO A. DE FIGANIERE,
North East, Md.

Part II.

(Part II should be executed by the executive officers of the various bureaus of the department, or, at their direction, by some official who can give the information desired. If unable to answer any question, indicate that fact.)

1. State the bureau or service, place, and district in which the person who answered the foregoing questions is employed. Fisheries; Pribilof Islands.

2. To what position has he been appointed? Physician.

3. State the date of appointment. July 25, 1910.

4. State the date the appointment was effective. (If appointment was made to take effect on date of oath, so state.) July 25, 1910.

5. State the date of the oath. July 26, 1910.

6. State the date the appointee or employee entered on duty. July 26, 1910.

7. What is his salary? $1,200 per annum.

8. From what appropriation is he paid? Protecting seal fisheries of Alaska.

9. Is the position excepted, competitive, or unclassified under the civil-service rules? Excepted.

10. If classified, state the date of classification. ———

11. In what manner did the appointee or employee enter the service? Examples: "From stenography and typewriting examination"; or "without examination"; or "by reinstatement"; or "by transfer from ——," stating department, bureau, or service, position, and salary, if known.) Without examination.

12. Is the appointee or employee required to give bond? No.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

JULY 27, 1910.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Pedro Alcantara de Figaniere, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

PEDRO A. DE FIGANIERE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of July, A. D. 1910.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

Bureau or office to which assigned: Fisheries.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

GENERAL APPOINTMENT—PRIOR DATE.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, October 24 1910.

SIR: You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office, physician in the service of the Bureau of Fisheries, Pribilof Islands, Alaska, at a salary of $1,200 per annum, effective May 1, 1910, on and after which date you have continuously served in the above-mentioned position until the close of September 12, 1910. (New position.)

Your appointment will continue not longer than until the close of September 12, 1910.

In addition to the compensation stated above, your actual and necessary expenses of travel from the Pribilof Islands to San Francisco, Cal., including subsistence while en route and on said islands, will be reimbursed you.

(In accordance with the provisions of Schedule A, subdivision I, sec. 9, civil-service rules.)

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully,

(Signed) A. GORDON-CUMMING,
Acting Chief Clerk.

Dr. H. C. MILLS (through the Commissioner of Fisheries).
Appropriation: Protecting seal fisheries of Alaska.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Herbert C. Mills, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

HERBERT C. MILLS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of November, A. D. 1910.

E. E. KEYES,
Notary Public, in and for the County of Alameda,
State of California.

The above appointee entered on duty May 1, 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, June 10, 1910.

HAROLD HEATH,
Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal.:

You are hereby appointed naturalist to accompany Agent W. I. Lembkey to the Pribilof Islands. Boat leaves San Francisco tomorrow at noon. Have wired Clark to issue instructions. Am greatly pleased that you accept under the existing circumstances.

CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Harold Heath, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

HAROLD HEATH.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of June, A. D. 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

(Authority to administer oaths, sec. 19, R. S., U. S.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

OATH OF OFFICE.

I, Harold Heath, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

HAROLD HEATH.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of August, A. D. 1910.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

PART V. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO SUPPLIES AND ACCOUNTS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SUPPLIES,
Washington, March 30, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
United States Fur-Seal Agent,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Referring to voucher in your favor in the sum of $10.06 for reimbursement for freight and drayage on one case of personal effects and one case photographic goods shipped from San Francisco, Cal., to Washington, D. C., via Southern Pacific Railroad, in the fall of 1907, it is requested by the auditor's office that you furnish a receipt from the North American Commercial Co. for the amount of the charges advanced by such company which, it is understood, you have paid that company for and are asking reimbursement through the voucher referred to.

Will you please obtain this receipt and forward it to me at the earliest possible date?

Very truly, yours,

WILBUR W. FOWLER,
Chief of Division.

[NOTE.—Pages 1127–1138, which are facsimiles of certain requisitions received from the fur-seal agents, are reproduced as full-page photolithographic illustrations, owing to the difficulty of reproducing the forms in type.]

Bureau Req. No. .....

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Department of Commerce and Labor

Dep't Req. No. 14443

Abstract No. .....

(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

January 21, 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

Fur-Seal Service
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved: C. P. D. *Chief Clerk*

W. J. Lampkey
Chief of Agent Seal Fisheries

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED JAN 27 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

ITEM No.	QUANTITY Desired	QUANTITY Issued	ARTICLES	COST
			St. Paul Island.	
6580	6 doz	MAR 29 1910	Furnish by Freshon Manila envelopes 10-1/2 x 15 (10x15 Pope)	936
137½	5 "	MAR 29 1910	Black lead pencils No. 2. Monarch 3.33 gross @ 76¢	1 40
45½	1 "	MAR 29 1910	Rubber, pencil, 84 pcs. to lb. Sample 1547 @ 25¢ lb.	25
111a	2½	MAR 29 1910	Ream typewriter follow sheets, 4-1/2 l. q. plain (4½x21 - cut to 8x10½)	1 69
114a	½	MAR 29 1910	" 8x10½ - Sample Q 2 lbs. plain @ 43¢	86
0M (72a)	6	MAR 29 1910	Typewriter ribbons, Remington copying 1/2 Webster blue @ 4.50 doz	2 25
165	3	MAR 29 1910	" " " Elk black @ 3.84 doz Leonard 1 lg	84
98a	3	MAR 29 1910	Boxes carbon paper (3oo sheets) Filert Copy, black (8x10½)	1 65
	6 doz	MAR 29 1910	Pads, No. 204 5¼x8"	5 40
	3	MAR 29 1910	" " 203 4¼x5¼	1 44
	3	MAR 29 1910	" " 205 8x10½"	4 32
97a	6	MAR 29 1910	Sheets blotting paper, 19x24 Sample 1 x 0.04 21	94
			Case # 8671, 8672, 8673, 8674, 8675, 8676, 8677, 8678	
			Weight 275 174, 178, 233, 202, 59, 69, 602	
1902	10 yds		Carpet linings (Rag straight) MAR 29 1910 Knight Bros. @ 46¢	6 00

Received the above ....., 190

INVOICED Clerk 4/4/10 COMPARED RC

(Name.)

(Title.)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

FILE

Bureau Req. No. .....

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Department of Commerce and Labor

B Dep't Req. No. 14444

Abstract No. .....

..... (Bureau, Office, or Division.)

January 21, 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

Fur-Seal Service (Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved: O. P. R. *Chief Clerk.*

per W. L. Lombley *Chief of Agent, Seal Fisheries*

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED JAN 27 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY DESIRED	QUANTITY ISSUED		COST	
			St. George Island.		
			Furnished by Fisheries		
658 o	6 doz.	MAR 29 1910	Manila envelopes 10-1/2 x 15 10x15" Pope #25 EL		93 ✓
137 b ✓	1	MAR 29 1910 ✓	FEB 19 10 Black lead pencils No. 2 (Mongol #2)		140 ✓
45 b ✓	1/2	MAR 29 1910	FEB 19 10 Ruby 112 Eberhard erasers (Sample 45L) 36 per doz @ .75 ✓		13+ ✓
111 e ✓	1/4 ream	MAR 29 1910	FEB 2 19 10 Cut to 8x10 1/2" - #3433T ✓ Typewriter follow sheets, 4-1/2 lbs. plain		84 ✓
114 a ✓	1 "	MAR 29 1910	8 x 10 1/2 Sample B ✓ Ira " 10 " " 2 lbs. "		43 ✓
168 m ✓	6	MAR 29 1910	Webster Typewriter ribbons, Remington copying blue 4.50 doz ✓		225 ✓
172 a ✓	3	MAR 29 1910	FEB 19 10 " " " " black record 1/8 Elk		84 ✓
98 a ✓	3 boxes	MAR 29 1910	8½ x 10 1/2 Carbon paper (3 ov Shts) Rlen Kopy - black) ✓ .55		165 ✓
	6 doz	MAR 29 1910	Pads, No. 204 5 1/4 x 8"		
Repeat	3 "	MAR 29 1910	" 203 4 x 5 1/4"		
	3 "	MAR 29 1910	" 205 8 x 10 1/2"		
97 a ✓	3 "	MAR 29 1910	FEB 19 10 Sheets blotting paper. 19 x 24" Sample B ✓ 00931		34 ✓
			INVOICED Sews 4/5/10 COMPARED RC		8.04

Received the above ....., 19

..... (Name.)

..... (Title.)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

11—1236

FILE

Bureau Req. No. .....

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Dep't Req. No. 14442

Abstract No. .....

Department of Commerce and Labor

..... (Bureau, Office, or Division.)

January 21, 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this Fur-Seal Service. (Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved: T. R. W. *Chief Clerk.*

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED JAN 27 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

W. J. Lubbey *Chief of Agent, Seal Fisheries*

ITEM No.	QUANTITY DESIRED	QUANTITY ISSUED	ARTICLES	COST
			St. Paul Island,	
T Om	2	MAR 29 1910	Fire extinguishers Copperoid & Harvey Underwriters @12.00	24 00
Om	1	MAR 29 1910	Hand Grenades, with racks Complete baskets	9 20
Om	1	MAR 29 1910	Revolving office chair, leather seat & back, S+S #913½	13 40
			(No. 910 W. Similar to one furnished in 1909.)	
Om	1	2	Remington typewriter, No. 7 APR 18 1910 Answered 74-1916	80 00
Om	1	MAR 29 1910	Double office desk, 4 x 4-1/2 ft. (Letter) Sanitary + 90 60 " Tilt cover ordered	43 60
7.27	2 3 lbs.		Charge for fire extinguishers (on charge) Sodium bicarbonate	
			St. George Island.	
T Om	2	MAR 29 1910	Fire extinguishers "Underwriters" @12.00 Vol 4-10-418-1249-50	24 00
Om	1 do	MAR 29 1910	Hand Grenades, with racks Complete baskets	9 20
7.27	3 lbs		Sodium bicarbonate	

The typewriting machine is essential as an extra one to replace those on either island when necessary to send them below for repairs.

The office desk and chair are essential to replace those now in use, which are falling to pieces.

INVOICED 4/5/10 E.C.W.J.

COMPARED R.C. (Initials)

Received the above ....., *19* ..... (Title)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

11—1260

FILE

Bureau Req. No. .....

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Department of Commerce and Labor

Dep't Req. No. 14441

Abstract No. .....

(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

January 21, 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

Fur-seal Service
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED JAN 27 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

W. S. Lembkey
Chief of Agent Seal Fisheries

Approved: [signature]
Chief Clerk

ITEM No.	QUANTITY Desired	QUANTITY Issued	ARTICLES	
			Miscellaneous	
			St. Paul Island.	
OM	1 set	MAR 29 1910	International code signals flags (27 flags) (21 sq flags 6 x 6 ft., 6 pennants, 6 x 12 ft. including a heavy canvas bag) Ord. Feb. 4-10 - #10-1351	62 60
OM	1 code	MAR 29 1910	International signal code Navy Dept Hydrographic Office Ord. by letter 3/19/19.	1 20
			St. George Island.	63 80
OM	1 P.N.	MAR 29 1910	Binocular glass, 6 power day ~~Pomaire~~, 6.4 power Secy of the Navy Naval Observatory Ord by letter 2-19-10 Latest day. $15 25	~~25~~
			Repairs, St. Paul Island.	
OM			Ordered Feb. 11, 1910 #10-1411. Repairs to one Bausch & Lomb Volute shutter 8x10 camera	1 50
			Repairs to Hotchkiss 2-pounder mountain cannon. Ord. by letter 2-19-10.	
			Repairs, St. George Island.	
		MAR 29 1910	Repairs to one binocular glass. solder no charge	
	?		INVOICED E.C.W.S. 4/5/10 COMPARED R.C.	

Received the above ....., 19

88 20

(Name.)

(Title.)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

11—1,000

FILE.

Bureau Req. No. .....

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Department of Commerce and Labor

B

Dep't Req. No. 14440

Abstract No. .....

(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

January 21, 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

Fur-Seal Service (Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved: T. L. H. *Chief Clerk.*

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED JAN 27 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

W. T. Lembkey *Chief of Agent, Seal Fisheries*

ITEM No.	QUANTITY Desired	QUANTITY Issued	ARTICLES	COST	
			Photographic Supplies		
			St. Paul Island.		
3011	1 doz.	MAR 29 1910	Rolls Films, 12 No. 4 Cart Kodak 5x4 photographic, 12 exposures @ 90¢	10	80
OM	3	MAR 29 1910 Rec Overk	Bulbs ~~and tubing for camera shutters~~ red, rubber for 8x10 camera @ .35 5 yds tubing	1	05
3020	1 gross	MAR 29 1910	Velox paper, 8x10 = Regular Carbon-single Weight developing	9	00
"	2	MAR 29 1910	Paper developing, Velox 4x5 " " " @ 2.00	4	00
OM	1 pc.		Tubing Standard, in 5 yd length, rubber @ .05 ft		75
			St. George Island.		
OM	3	MAR 29 1910	Bulbs, ~~and tubing for camera shutters~~ red rubber for 8x10 camera @ .35 5 yd tubing developing	1	05
3020	1 gross	MAR 29 1910	Velox paper 8x10 Regular Carbon-single weight	9	00
3024	3 doz.	MAR 29 1910	Plates photographic 8x10 Glass Cartridge Cover @ 1.51	4	53
OM	1 pc.		Tubing Standard, rubber in 5 yd length @ .05 ft		75

order contract FEB

order over FEB

ORDERED FEB 1 - 1910 No. 1313-18

ORDERED FEB 1 - 1910 No. 1319

INVOICED 4/5/10 COMPARED

Received the above ....., 19

(Name)

(Title)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

M—1280

FILE

Bureau Req. No. .....

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

B

Dep't Req. No. 14436

Abstract No. .....

Department of Commerce and Labor

D

(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

January 21, 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

Fur-Seal Service
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved: G. L. W. *Chief Clerk.*

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED JAN 27 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

W. S. Dmbkey *Chief of* Agent Seal Fisheries

ITEM No.	QUANTITY Desired	QUANTITY Issued	ARTICLES	COST
			St. Paul Island.	
			For small arms and artillery:	
	10 gal.		Cosmaline oil Wor Dept @ .35 quart	14 00
1003b	100 yds MAR 29 1910		Cheesecloth unbleached @ .03	3 00
			For gasoline launch:	
	100 lbs.		Non-fluid oil, light consistency @ .14 lb	14 00
OM	98 ~~100 lbs~~ MAR 29 1910		White waste (Bales) ordered Feb 9/10 10-1372 @ .095	9 31
OM	50 gal MAR 29 1910		Gasoline,	
OM	1 set		Reversing gears for Jaeger 10 h.p. engine type T, series 3, No. 635 Chas J Jager Co Boston Mass	See Ry 14457
? OM	1 MAR 29 1910	Scale	Portable platform ~~scales~~ (Fairbanks) ord No 1174 10-1353 ~~(Old No. 10 1/2, now~~ No. 1174, ~~Illus. price-list July 1, 1898, p. 23).~~	30 70 about 30 70
? OM	6 MAR 29 1910		Spring balance scales, ~~weighing 1/4 lbs.~~ Chatellon No 01, 25th 500 or 600 lbs 1/4 # (Chatellon like sample). ord 2-4-10 # 10-1353	9 00
			No 01, Sportsmans, Mckel Chatellon Scale 1.55 ea	9 30
			Rudolph & West Co Barber & Ross 1.50 ea	9 00
				81.00

Received the above ....., 19 INVOICED EEWS (Name)

order waste FB

4/5/10 COMPARED RC (Title)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

M—1860

FILE

Bureau Req.
No. .....

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Dep't Req. No. 14438
Abstract No. .....

Department of Commerce and Labor

B

(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

January 21, 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

Fur-Seal Service
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved: [signature] *Chief Clerk*

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED JAN 27 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

W. S. Lumbkey
Chief of Agent Seal Fisheries

ITEM No.	QUANTITY Desired	QUANTITY Issued	ARTICLES	COST	
			St. George Island.		
OM	1	MAR 29 1910	Packing box Case packing	82	
OM	10 gal.		Cosmaline oil Wor Dept @ 35 quart		
1003b	100 yards	MAR 29 1910	Cheesecloth, MAR 14 unbleached 03	3	00
	~~50 gal.~~		~~Gasoline.~~		
1902	100 yds.		Carpet lining (contract) @ 06	6	00
	Case # 8667, 8668, 8669, 8670,		MAR 29 1910 Freight		
	Weight 183, 275, 118 70,		[illegible]		
			INVOICED 4/5/10 ECWS COMPARED RC		
				17	00

Received the above ....., *19*

Name

(Title)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

11—1250

FILE

Bureau Req.
No. .....

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Department of Commerce and Labor

Dep't Req. No. 14437
Abstract No. .....

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES
RECEIVED
JAN 27 1910
DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

January 27, 1910., 190

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

Fur-Seal Fisheries.
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved: T.E.H.
Chief Clerk.

W. J. Lembkey
Chief ~~of~~ Agent, Seal Fisheries.

ITEM No.	QUANTITY Desired	QUANTITY Issued	ARTICLES	COST	
		MAR 29 1910	ST. PAUL.		
	1		Universal joint with 1 set flanges to fit 1-3/8 in. shaft with all keys to fit keyways on flanges.	~~7~~	~~10~~
OM	1 set		Reversing Gears for 10 H.P. engine, with universal joint, and set of flanges to fit 1 3/8" shaft, with all necessary key	143	00
X OM	1		Coupling, flexible, shaft, No. 2, board & key seated, for 1-3/8" shaft.	16	10
X	1		Binoculars (repaired)	no charge	
X			Keys for flanges of Universal joint 1 3/8" 2	"	

ORDERED
FEB 15 1910
No. 1436

INVOICED ECWS
4/15/10
COMPARED

Shipped Apr 20th - Adams Exp 26#
to U.S. Fur Seal Agts % Commanding Officer
Rev. Cutter Bear San Francisco California
H.E.W.

Received the above ....., 190

(Name.)

(Title.)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

11—1250

FILE

Bureau Req. No.

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

B

Dep't Req. No. 14439

Abstract No.

Department of Commerce and Labor

Fisheries
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED JAN 27 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

January 27, 1910, 190

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

Fur-Seal Service.
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

W. I. Lembkey

Approved T. C. K. *Chief Clerk.*

Chief ~~of~~ Agent, Fur Seal Fisheries.

ITEM No.	QUANTITY DESIRED	QUANTITY ISSUED	ARTICLES	COST	
			ST. PAUL.		
	50 ✓		rounds, Shell for Hotchkiss 2-pounder, 1.65 caliber 10-1593		
	50		pounds, Saluting powder, for signalling. @ 10		5 00
			ST. GEORGE.		
	50 ✓		rounds, Shell for Hotchkiss 2-pounder, 1.65 caliber 10-1593		
	50		pounds, Saluting powder. @ 10		5 00
			3/5/10 INVOICED 6 cwg		
			COMPARED		
			Shipd by War Dept C/ Depot Jer Bks S. Fran.		
			Pribilof Islands Alaska		
				10	00

Ordered by Keller 2-19-10

Received the above ....., 190 .....
(Name.)

.....
(Title.)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

31—1250

FILE

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Bureau Req. No. 83

Dep't Req. No. 15429

Abstract No.

Department of Commerce and Labor

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED APR 30 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

Bureau of Fisheries (Bureau, Office, or Division.)

April 29, 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this Bureau (Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved: [signature] Chief Clerk.

W. J. Dimbkey Agent, Alaska Seal Chief of Fisheries.

ITEM No.	QUANTITY Ordered	QUANTITY Issued	ARTICLES	COST
D			Packing Box	82
	MAY 9 1910 Ordered 10-2118 19-20 x 2/-32		To photographic and other supplies required on St. George Island, summer of 1910.	
3024a	12 doz	(144)	8 x 10 Cramer's Crown plates Photographic @ 1.512	18 15
3020a	1 gross	(51)	Velox paper, 8 x 10, regular developing carbon-single wh	9 00
743a	2 lbs	(225)	Sodium Sulphite, crystal U.S.P. @ 045	09
692b	2 lbs	(225)	Carbonate potassium U.S.P. @ .115	23
Om	2 oz		Hydroquinin Columbia Photo Supply Co @ .125	25
Om	3 oz		Pyrogalic acid Acid S. Baker @ .20	60
Om	1 oz	(51)	Metol Columbia Photo Supply Co.	50
Om	1	Box, fixing	8 x 10 composition ~~hard rubber fixing box~~ Columbia P.S. Co.	3 50
Om	1		for 8 x 10 plates Col. Photo Supply Co tank developer for plates (Eastman)	3 00
Om	1	Lens,	Pancratic Tele-photo for 8x10 camera ~~lens~~ C P S Co	13 50
733a	25 lbs		Sodium Hypo Sulphite, U.S.P., granular @ .0194 ~~Hypo~~	48
Om	1		Cabinet @ 9.58, No. 258, regular MAY 16 1910 Ordered 10-2139	
			Two-drawer card cabinet for 5 x 8 cards	7 00
Om	1000		MAY 14 1910 Ordered 10-2178 Blank cards, 5 x 8, index, white ~~with guides~~ 150 buff, plain fifths ~~no funnel~~	2 10
Om	150		Cards, heavy weight, (40 to inch 5x8, buff, tabbed 5th MAY 14 1910 Ordered 10-2179 @ 76c	1.12

Received the above ....., 19

MAY 27 1910 INVOICED 6/3/10 (Date)

FREIGHT COMPARED (Date)

case # 9039
Weight 2 1/9
Packed

NOTE. Receipt has retard this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

FILE

Bureau Req. No. 84

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Department of Commerce and Labor

Dep't Req. No. 15428

Abstract No. .....

Bureau of Fisheries
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

April 29 1910

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

RECEIVED APR 30 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved:

Chief Clerk.

W. L. Lombley
Chief of Agent, Alaska Seal Fisheries.

Item No.	QUANTITY Desired	QUANTITY Issued	ARTICLE	COST	
			Packing Box		82
	MAY 9 1910 Ordered 10-2118-19		To photographic and other supplies required on St. Paul Island, summer of 1910.		
OM	1		Pancratic Tele-photo lens for 8 x 10 camera G. P. & Co. @1572	13	50
3024a	12 doz		8 x 10 Cramer's Crown plates, photographic.	18	14+
3020a	1 gross		developing Velox paper, 8 x 10, regular carbon, single weight	9	00
743a	2 lbs		Sodium Sulphite crystal, U.S.P. Dry Sulphite soda @.045		09
478a	2 lbs		Dry Carbonate potassium U.S.P @.115		23
OM	2 oz		Hydroquinin @.126		25
OM	3 oz		Pyrogalic acid @ .20		60
OM	1 oz		Metol		50
OM	1 box		Fixing. Compositon 8 x 10 hard rubber fixing box	3	50
OM	1		plate Dennett 8 x 10 tank developer for carrier (Eastman)	3	00
733a	25 lbs		Sodium Hyposulphite, U.S.P. granular. @.0194 Hypo		49+
X 3009b(1)	6 pkgs 3 doz		Developers, photographic, developing powders for 5" Kodak tank (36 powders) Eastman developing powders for tank developer 5 x 4 MAY 11 1910 @.18	1	08
OM	1	Cabinet	Two drawer card cabinet for 5 x 8 cards	7	00
OM	1000		Blank cards, 5 x 8, with guides, ruled, plain	2	00
OM	100		Cards, heavy weight, (note size) 5x8, ruled, plain MAY 10 1910 Ordered 10-2178	1	13+
	MAY 10 1910 Ordered 10-2178		Shutter repaired 8x10 camera including labbed etc.	2	50

Received the above 19

Case #9038
Weight Net 22 Gr.
Packed by S.L.

INVOICED MAY 27 1910 $92.40 (Title.)

Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies, Department of Commerce and Labor, when the articles are delivered.

FREIGHT

FILE

Bureau Req. No. 86

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

Department of Commerce and Labor

Dep't Req. No. 15406

Abstract No. ____

DIVISION OF SUPPLIES RECEIVED MAY 5 - 1910 DEPT. OF COMMERCE & LABOR

Bureau of Fisheries
(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

May 4, 1910., 19

To the CHIEF CLERK:

Please cause the supplies specified below to be furnished for the official use of this

(Bureau, Office, or Division.)

Approved.

Chief Clerk.

W I Lubbey
Chief Agent
Chief of XXXXXXXXXX

ITEM No.	QUANTITY DESIRED	QUANTITY ISSUED	ARTICLES	COST
OM	12,000		cards, White 5x8 ruled, ~~like sample.~~ @ 2.65M	5 30
			MAY 6 1911 Ordered 16-2109	
			½ to each island	
			For Alaska Fur-Seal Service.	
			INVOICED 63106 COMPARED RC	

Received the above ____, 19

(Name.)

(Title.)

NOTE.—Receipt and return this Requisition to the Division of Supplies immediately after the articles are delivered.

B—1250

FILE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF ALASKAN FISHERIES,
Washington, April 19, 1910.

Mr. WILBUR W. FOWLER,
Chief Division of Supplies,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

MY DEAR SIR: As requested in your letter of the 30th ultimo, I inclose herewith duplicate receipts from the North American Commercial Co. for the amount of the charges advanced by that company on my account in connection with the shipment of one case of photographic negatives and one case of personal effects from San Francisco to Washington, for which I have been asking reimbursement from the department.

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

(Inclosure.)

MAY 11, 1910.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Order No. 10–2146, of May 11, 1910, for one No. 7 Remington typewriter, equipped with elite type, rubber cover, and blue copying ribbon, for the use of the fur-seal agents, to be delivered securely packed for shipment, has been sent the Remington Typewriter Co.

That company has been requested to have this machine at their San Francisco office open for your inspection, and they have been informed it is expected you will reach San Francisco next week.

As soon as you have inspected and accepted the machine, have them fill out the accompanying invoice, you to note the acceptance thereon in the place provided in the upper left-hand corner, and mail it to the Division of Supplies in the inclosed envelope.

Respectfully,

A. H. BALDWIN,
Chief Clerk.

(Incls.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SUPPLIES,
Washington, May 19, 1910.

MY DEAR MR. LEMBKEY: I have received information by indorsement from the Quartermaster's Department this morning that one case of hand grenades, weight 70 pounds, for St. George Island, is in the quartermaster's hands in San Francisco, having arrived too late to be placed on the revenue cutter *Bear*, and I have informed the Quartermaster's Department that you may now be communicated with, care of the North American Commercial Co., Mills Building, San Francisco, and that, upon receipt of information from him, you will take care of the disposition of this case.

Very truly, yours,

WILBUR W. FOWLER,
Chief of Division.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Care of North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 25, 1910.*

To BOWERS,
Commissioner Fisheries, Washington, D. C.:

Blank vouchers form number forty-three for settlement merchants goods purchased not arrived; please mail sufficient supply immediately.

LEMBKEY.

MAY 26, 1910.

LEMBKEY,
218 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Voucher forms number forty-three mailed you to-day.

BOWERS.

[Memorandum for Mr. Chichester regarding coal for steamer *Homer*.]

Homer burns per day: Screenings, 12 tons; clean coal, 10 tons.

The Western Fuel Co., of San Francisco, has agreed to furnish Comox screenings for the *Homer* at $5.25 per long ton, f. o. b. vessel at their bunkers in bulk. Their bid for Comox clean coal for the islands, sacked, we to furnish the sacks, was $9.50 per long ton, delivered to steamer. Their bid has been accepted.

Homer will burn approximately the following amounts of coal:

	Tons.	Where purchased.
First trip:		
San Francisco to Dutch Harbor, 12 days, at 12 tons.....	144	
San Francisco to Dutch Harbor, 2 days safety, at 12 tons...	24	San Francisco.
Dutch Harbor to islands and return, 5 days, at 12 tons.....	60	Dutch Harbor.
Coal trip:		
Dutch Harbor to islands and return, 5 days, at 12 tons	60	Dutch Harbor.
Dutch Harbor to San Francisco, 12 days, at 12 tons.....	144	Dutch Harbor.
Second trip (H. D. C. to purchase):		
San Francisco to Dutch Harbor, 14 days, at 12 tons.....	168	San Francisco.
Dutch Harbor to islands and return, 5 days, at 12 tons.....	60	San Francisco.
Dutch Harbor to San Francisco, 12 days, at 12 tons.....	144	San Francisco.

I have already purchased the coal for the trip to the islands and will purchase the coal for the ship at Dutch Harbor. Mr. Chichester is to purchase the coal necessary to take the *Homer* from San Francisco and return on her second trip. The coal estimated above probably is 30 tons in excess of what the ship will burn.

W. I. L.

JUNE 7, 1910.

[Telegram via Western Union.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *June 30, 1908.*

SECRETARY COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.:

Have been requested to send the following telegram: Secretary Commerce and Labor: Stationery and other supplies requested for seal islands through Division of Supplies not received. Respectfully request same to be forwarded by company's steamer leaving San Francisco July 25, proximo.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries.

8.28 A. M., JULY 1, 1908.

WASHINGTON, *July 27, 1910.*

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Care North American Commercial Co.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Your requisition for medical supplies and equipment approved and mailed you to-day. Purchase in San Francisco.

DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *August 2, 1910.*

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of the 27th ultimo advising me that requisition for medical supplies and equipment have been approved and mailed. The requisitions were received yesterday and I will purchase the supplies to-day.

Respectfully,

H. D. CHICHESTER,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction and partially mutilated.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 3, 1910.

[Memorandum in re overtime to crew of United States chartered steamship *Homer* on the first trip from June 1 to July 23, 1910.]

Under the charter and according to settled practice the crew while in port or at anchor work from 7 a. m. to 5 p. m., with an hour for dinner. All time at work outside these hours is "overtime" to be paid by the charterer and subject to his judgment. It is to the interest of the owners to have the charter prolonged; it is to the interest of the charterers to have the charter terminate as soon as possible. To expedite the work of discharging cargo and taking aboard other cargo, the crew must work from daylight in the morning until dark. This necessitates the payment to the crew of "overtime," for which the bill is rendered.

The period the bill covers is, as stated, June 1 to July 23.

Overtime for any day is marked on the ship's log in red ink by the mate, after being checked up with the mate by a delegate of the labor union on board. The master then approves the log for that date. The master gets no overtime.

The *Homer's* log shows the following overtime charged from June 1 to July 23, 1910: June 28, 8¼ hours; June 29, 4½ hours; June 30, 6 hours; July 3, 6½ hours; July 7, 3½ hours; July 8, 5 hours; July 9, 7 hours; July 10, 6½ hours; July 11, 2 hours; total, 49¼ hours.

This represents the overtime of the seamen on the *Homer* as marked on the log. The mates, cooks, firemen, and waiters worked less time than the seamen. While the log shows 49¼ hours for the

crew, the bill shows 50¾ hours, a difference of 1½ hours. It is a small difference, but should be susceptible of explanation.

It must be remembered that the log in my possession is a duplicate copy of that kept by the mate on the ship, Capt. Mathew Buckard. I know Mr. Buckard to be an honest man and old seaman and that he would under no circumstances put in the log anything other than facts. It is probable, that being unused to clerical duties, in copying the log Buckard omitted to mark an hour and a half's overtime somewhere on my copy that should have appeared, and that would account for the difference. Undoubtedly Mr. Fritch can give a list of the overtime by dates.

_____ _____,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

(Copy—original too faint for reproduction.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 4, 1910.

[Memorandum in re meals furnished by J. Homer Fritch Co., on the S. S. *Homer*, to various persons in the employ of the United States Department of Commerce and Labor, Seal Fisheries.]

A reference to the log book of the S. S. *Homer* while under Government charter from June 1 to September 13, 1910, shows the following:

Ned B. Campbell went aboard the *Homer* June 13 at 1 p. m., after lunch, and arrived at Dutch Harbor 6.30 p. m., June 24, 1910. He ate on board *Homer* June 25. At 6 a. m., June 26, the *Homer* sailed for St. George, leaving Mr. Campbell at Dutch Harbor to weigh coal. He remained in Dutch Harbor until July 6, when the *Homer* left Dutch Harbor at 4 a. m. on that date, discharging him at St. George after breakfast on July 7. This would indicate a total of 41 meals, while the bill charges him with 44 meals.

Probably Mr. Campbell had three more meals aboard the *Homer* while at Dutch Harbor, but I was not with the ship at that time and can not certify to them.

Mr. Heath went aboard the *Homer* on June 13, at 1 p. m. after lunch and remained aboard continuously until June 29, at 5 a. m., when he was landed on St. Paul Island. This would indicate a total of 46 meals, or 2 less than charged on the bill.

The eight laborers on the first trip from Dutch Harbor left that port on June 26 at 6 a. m. and landed on St. George on June 28 after breakfast. They probably ate dinner and supper ashore that day. At 11 p. m., June 28, they went aboard and arrived at St. Paul June 29 at 5 a. m. Probably they had breakfast on the ship June 29, but ate on shore the remainder of the day, and on the 30th, and breakfast July 1. They went aboard for lunch July 1, and landed at noon July 2 at Dutch Harbor, a total of 96 meals, as charged on the bill.

On the coal trip eight native laborers left Dutch Harbor on the *Homer* at 4 a. m. on July 6. They landed at St. George at 6.30 a. m., July 7. They probably ate dinner and supper ashore on the 7th, three meals ashore on the 8th, and three meals ashore on the 9th. They left St. George at 8.30 a. m. after breakfast on the 10th and

arrived at St. Paul at 1.40 p. m., after dinner of the same day. They left St. Paul at 9.25 a. m. on July 11 after breakfast and landed back at Dutch Harbor at 1.30 p. m., after dinner, July 12. This would make a total of 72 meals, agreeing with the charge on the bill.

(Signed) W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 5, 1910.

[Memorandum in re wireless messages sent "collect" to North American Commercial Co. from St. Paul Island, Alaska, on official business.]

When purchases for the Pribilof Islands were made in May, 1910, the requisition prepared by the employees of the North American Commercial Co. was followed explicitly. On it were only 32 pairs of women's good shoes and 39 pairs of men's heavy shoes to supply approximately 50 people of each sex for a year. No amplification of the requisition was made, because the stock already on the islands was not known.

When the ship arrived at the islands, the time of everyone was fully occupied with taking inventory, arranging for the transfer of the property, and with taking seals. It was not until after the ship left for San Francisco that the cargo was opened, checked up with goods on hand, and the supply of shoes found to be inadequate for the people's use for a year. As the necessity for an additional supply of shoes was urgent, the only recourse was to communicate with San Francisco before the *Homer* left there on her second trip. This ordinarily would be impossible, as ships going back and forth to Nome and Seattle do not pass within 50 miles of the islands. With the aid of "wireless," however, it was possible to communicate with some one of these steamers as it was passing the islands.

As the bureau had no station at San Francisco, the only hope of communicating with the *Homer* was by sending the message to the North American Commercial Co. Accordingly several copies of a message regarding the shoes and several other necessary articles were prepared and given to the captain of each patrol cutter in the hope that one of them might be able to get the message through. After about two weeks of failure the *Tahoma* finally got into touch with a Nome steamer and delivered the message, which reached the company at San Francisco on August 2, four days before the sailing of the *Homer*, and in time to purchase the articles desired.

In view of the haste and the informality involved in the incident, it is submitted that the North American Commercial Co., which had no interest in the matter, should not be held out of the money it advanced as a favor on the messages in question. If, however, it is decided that the Government can not pay the rate charged for the messages, it is suggested that the telegraph company be asked to refund the amount collected directly to the North American Commercial Co. and to render an account de novo to the Government for payment of the message at Government rates.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 6, 1910.

DISBURSING CLERK,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: There is returned herewith voucher of the North American Commecial Co., in amount $98.51, on which there is suspended the amounts $28.34 and $4.82 on account of two telegrams which are charged at the full commercial rate, together with a memorandum from Mr. Lembkey, the agent on the seal islands in Alaska, in regard thereto.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

(Inclosures.)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE DISBURSING CLERK,
Washington, September 30, 1910.

Suspended account: Bureau, Fisheries; name, North American Commercial Co.; amount, $98.51.

Cause of suspension: The charges of $28.34 and $4.82, for two telegrams to North American Commercial Co., San Francisco, Cal., one from St. Paul Island and one from U. S. revenue cutter *Manning* at sea, via Nome and Seattle, are suspended, being charged at full commercial rate, whereas telegrams should have been indorsed "Official business, Government rate," and forwarded to Seattle over Government lines. The Western Union Telegraph Co. is entitled to Government rate only between Seattle and San Francisco.

W. L. SOLEAU,
Disbursing Clerk.

[Telegram.]

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA,
July 29–August 2.

NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Send St. Paul 600 gunpowder; 1 barrel vinegar; 4 dozen Lea & Perrin's Worcester; 6 dozen Lyons tooth powder; 20 pounds Barber's shoe threads, No. 10; also 60 pairs woman's Angeles shoes, sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7—12 pairs each size; 48 pairs woman's Wear Wells, sizes 3, 4, 5, 6—12 pairs each; also 36 pairs men's American, sizes 6, 7, 8—12 pairs each.

LEMKY.

[Telegram.]

U. S. R. C. "MANNING," AT SEA, *August 6–9–10.*

NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.:

Ship powder and shoes by freight if too late for *Homer.*

LEMBKEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 12, 1910.

Respectfully returned to the disbursing clerk, calling attention to the explanatory memorandum attached.

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

[Copy.]

Suspended account: Bureau, Fisheries; name, H. Morris; amount, $20.50.

Please furnish, for the information of this office and the Treasury in the examination of my accounts, a clear statement of the service rendered in each case—the articles hauled, where from and to, and for what purpose.

W. L. SOLEAU, *Disbursing Clerk.*

[Memorandum in re bill of H. Morris for drayage in San Francisco.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 12, 1910.

Morris is a drayman who has been doing the company's work for years and is personally well known to me. I hired him this fall to do such drayage as was necessary in connection with the personal baggage of the officers and Government property arriving on the *Homer*. The bill is reasonable and just.

The items in Morris's bill may be explained as follows:

September 12, express, steamer *Homer* to Hotel Stewart, two bags mail, $0.50; these bags came from St. Paul and St. George, respectively, and contained mail, as well as packages which were not to be mailed, such as requisition books, samples of sealing knives, inventories, etc. They were taken by Morris, at my request, to my room at the hotel, where the contents were assorted and properly disposed of.

September 14, express, steamer *Homer* to coal yard of Fritch, two tanks, $7.50; two large iron tanks, holding about 1,000 gallons of water, are necessary to be placed on the island ship each year to contain an auxiliary supply of fresh water for the journey. These tanks now owned by the Government must be stored from September until the following June. I arranged with Fritch to store these tanks in his coal yard. It was necessary to haul them thither from the *Homer*. Morris, at my request, furnished the drayage.

September 14, express, steamer *Homer* to Quartermaster's Department, 12 cases, $5; these cases consisted of personal baggage of the agents, which they, by instructions from the Secretary, were obliged to send by freight, through the quartermaster; also, specimens for the department and a case of machinery. As this stuff was dumped from the *Homer* onto a public dock and could not be left there without a watchman, I had Morris take the lot to the quartermaster's stores until arrangements could be made for final disposition.

September 15, express, quartermaster's to warehouse, one case machinery; steamer *Homer* to warehouse, blankets, covers, and slings, $3.

Of the 12 cases taken to the quartermaster's stores on the 14th, one case of machinery was taken thence to the storage warehouse to remain until it can be sent back to the islands. Six blankets, the property of the Government, for use of cabin passengers on the *Homer*, two "covers," i. e., large canvas tarpaulins to cover deck cargo, and two net slings, to take aboard and discharge sealskins, were hauled from the *Homer* to the storage warehouse to remain until needed next spring.

September 17, express, quartermaster's to Washington, two cases, $3.50: It was ascertained that two large cases of specimens taken to the quartermaster's had to be shipped to Washington under special manifest, and for that reason had to be drayed by shipper from quartermaster's stores to Southern Pacific freight station. Morris did this service in addition to attending to the shipment of the cases.

September 19, express, Crowley to warehouse and office, one load, $1: The mauls, stencil, marking pots, etc., used for packing sealskins at Oakland Long Wharf were brought back to San Francisco in one of Crowley's gasoline launches, and were taken by Morris from Crowley's wharf to a storage warehouse for storage. The marking pots were borrowed from the North American Commercial Co., and were returned by Morris to the company's office.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

OFFICE OF THE DISBURSING CLERK,
October 18, 1910.

Suspended account: Bureau, Fisheries; name, North American Commercial Co.; amount, $51.95.

Cause of suspension: Explanation is desired showing the "3 pairs white blankets, $26.55" is a proper charge against the appropriation for contingent expenses, Department of Commerce and Labor. For what purpose were they purchased?.

Referring to charge of $8.40, "Repairs to W. & W. sewing machine," the certifying officer will please furnish statement whether the sewing machine is property of the Government or not.

W. L. SOLEAU,
Disbursing Clerk.

Explanation: The blankets are part of the furniture of the Government houses and are as necessary as chairs and bedsteads. The sewing machine is and has been for years the property of the Government, and the repairs were necessary to put it into condition for use.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

Approved.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

[Memorandum in re letter of J. Homer Fritch, Oct. 12, 1910, making explanation regarding meals furnished to Government employees and overtime on S. S. *Homer*.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, October 25, 1910.

Having read the letter, I believe the meals should be paid as charged without deduction. If the department is not satisfied with Mr. Fritch's answer regarding the overtime, I suggest that the difference be suspended and let him explain it later, as he has been writing repeatedly to me asking for the expedition of the account and wants the money. As the payment of overtime was made before the United States shipping commissioner, who took the crew's statement, as well as that of the ship's officers, it must be correct. Mr. Fritch does not seem to have at hand the data from which to make a detailed statement.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Memorandum in re suspended account of J. Homer Fritch (Inc.) for miscellaneous expenditures in connection with the second trip of the United States chartered steamer *Homer*.]

WASHINGTON, *November 26, 1910.*

The following statements follow the same arrangement as that in the suspension slip:

1. If Walter L. Hahn's expenses should, in the opinion of the disbursing clerk, be paid from the appropriation "Inquiry respecting food fishes," no objection is perceived to such arrangement.

2. The appointment of Dr. Morgan now is on file in the department.

3. In charging for meals for "Dr. Fagars," Mr. Fritch means De Figaniere, but not having been informed of that gentleman's correct name, was obliged to do the best he could at spelling it.

4. The appointments of Dr. Mills, J. Murtha, and Dr. Cunningham have been made, and are on file in the department.

5. Harold Heath's appointment as naturalist was made to expire on September 9 because it was believed that the *Homer* would arrive in San Francisco by that date. Owing to stress of weather, however, the *Homer* did not arrive in San Francisco until the 12th of September. Had this been known, Mr. Heath's services would have been terminated on the latter date. It is submitted that the department is in duty bound to return Mr. Heath to San Francisco, and, furthermore, that Mr. Fritch, who is an innocent third party, should not have disallowed from his account charges for meals of a Government employee, concerning whom he was under contract to furnish meals without exercise of any discretion.

6. These Chinamen, while employed as cooks for the Government mess, receive no regular appointments, and occupy the same status in that regard as janitors and stockmen on the islands and stevedores on board ship. The authority for the employment of these cooks is contained in section 37 of the annual instructions of May 9, 1910, to the agent, seal fisheries, signed by the Commissioner of Fisheries and the Secretary. The cooks are not personal servants. They change constantly, and their designation and employment must be left to the agent or assistant agents on the ground. Two of the cooks mentioned in the meal list of Mr. Fritch were going to

the islands to take service there, while the other two were returning from the islands after having completed their duty there. One of these cooks was procured by Assistant Agent Chichester, while the other three were hired by Agent Lembkey, and the department notified.

7. George C. Davis was foreman of the gang packing sealskins into casks on Oakland Long Wharf. He is an expert and has done this work for years. He was hired by Agent Lembkey and was paid by Mr. Fritch in accordance with notification from that agent as to the length of his service and rate per day. He served two days, September 13 and 14, at $5 per day, making no charge for overtime on the 13th.

8. The overtime marked on the *Homer's* log follows:

		Hours.
Aug.	21. Dutch Harbor (Sunday)	8½
	23. St. George	3¼
	24. St. George and St. Paul	3¼
	25. St. Paul	2
	26. St. Paul	5½
	27. St. Paul	2½
	28. St. Paul (Sunday)	7¼
Sept.	1. Dutch Harbor	4
	12. San Francisco	2
		38¾

The character of the work performed by the crew when making overtime is the same as when employed during usual hours, the crew discharging or loading ship and the firemen and engineers at their several posts. Beyond this it is impossible to state the nature of services rendered by each person. It is also not possible to state the amount of the overtime of each person under separate dates.

9. The charge of $20 for moving, etc., of tanks is all right. Mr. Fritch stored the tanks in his coal yard, gratis, and had the painting and cementing of them done by his own employees. The charge of 5 per cent commission on this, however, while perhaps technically correct, might well be eliminated.

It must be remembered that Mr. Fritch has been kept out of his money on the attached account for over two months for reasons entirely beyond his power to remove. Being under contract to furnish meals to all Government employees, he could not inquire concerning them, whether they had been regularly appointed, or the numerous requirements of departmental usage complied with. Notwithstanding this, however, his account has not been paid. It would seem in this case that the informalities occurring in the account by reason of the peculiar circumstances surrounding seal-island affairs this summer might well be waived by the Secretary in order that Mr. Fritch may obtain his money.

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

[Memorandum in re application of H. M. Hanson for employment as watchman on the seal islands of Alaska.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 7, 1911.

During the period that fur seals are on or about the Pribilof Islands—that is to say, from May to December, inclusive, of every year—an armed guard is stationed at each seal rookery remote from the village. This guard patrols the rookeries under its supervision day and night. The guardhouses are in communication with the village by telephone, and in case of a raid reenforcements go at once to the point of attack. Guard duty is highly technical and is performed wholly by the natives, who, owing to their life-long knowledge of the topography, the habits and haunts of seals, the natural change of position of those animals from time to time due to climatic and other conditions, are the best sort of watchmen, are thoroughly reliable, and perform their duties in an efficient manner without compensation in money.

The services of Mr. Hanson in the manner indicated can not be utilized to advantage on the seal islands.

BARTON W. EVERMANN.

Approved and forwarded.

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

[Memorandum to Mr. Lembkey.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 14, 1911.

It is suggested that you take up this matter with Dr. Evermann and attempt to reach a decision as to what policy should be pursued under the circumstances.

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

NOTE.—"This matter" refers to negotiations for a vessel for the transportation of supplies for the season of 1911.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 14, 1911.

Dr. WALTER L. HAHN,
Naturalist, Fur-Seal Service, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: Mr. Henry L. Ward, director of the Public Museum of the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wis., desires to secure a series of fur seals, including at least a bull, half bull, bachelor, cow, and pup for the pur-

pose of preparing a group of these animals for exhibition purposes in that museum. The bureau is advised by Mr. Lembkey that some years ago a similar series was obtained for the museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences by searching the rookeries and hauling grounds from time to time and saving examples that had recently died. You are instructed to make similar search during the season of 1911, selecting the best material that can be found and prepare it for shipment to Milwaukee. You will, of course, understand perfectly how to care for the specimens so that they will make good exhibition material. The Milwaukee museum has been informed that the expense will probably be about $5 per seal for container and preparation. The material can be brought to San Francisco by the department's vessel on its last trip from the islands, and from there shipped direct to the Milwaukee museum.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 21, 1911.

Dr. WALTER L. HAHN,
Naturalist, Fur-Seal Service, St. Paul Island, Alaska.

SIR: There is inclosed herewith copy of a letter just received from Prof. Henry L. Ward of the Public Museum of the City of Milwaukee, which explains itself. If possible, secure for this museum the specimens which it desires if suitable material can be found among the dead seals on the rookeries and hauling grounds. Please note that Prof. Ward desires the measurements, etc., which will be helpful in mounting the specimens. He also desires to have extra skulls. These also can doubtless be secured. If necessary, a few of those killed in the drives could be killed in some other way than by injuring the skulls.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

PUBLIC MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE,
Milwaukee, Wis., January 18, 1911.

Mr. H. M. SMITH,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I am very grateful for your favor of the 14th instant, in which you inform me that the bureau will be pleased to issue instructions to Dr. Walter L. Hahn, the resident naturalist, to secure and prepare for this museum any old bulls, half bulls, cows, pups, and bachelors which may recently have died on the rookeries, and are in suitable condition for making exhibition specimens.

I have the authorization of the board of trustees of this museum to pay the expense connected with this for the securing of 8 specimens. We should have, I think, 1 bull, 4 cows, and, say, 3 pups for the making of a satisfactory group. If Dr. Hahn will take the trouble

to give us measurements of the different specimens it will greatly aid in the proper mounting of the same, said measurements of course being taken before the specimens are skinned.

I should also greatly like to have a few extra skulls for our collection, provided he can readily secure them.

The trustees will heartily appreciate your courtesy in this matter, and I trust that they will meet with success.

Respectfully, yours,

HENRY L. WARD, *Secretary.*

Postscript: Will it be necessary or desirable for me to communicate direct with Dr. Hahn as to details of this, and if so, how should I address him?

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 26, 1911.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a report of this date by the agent, seal fisheries, upon the question of the performance by the North American Commercial Co. of its obligations under its expired contract for the sealing right on the Pribilof Islands. I transmit also the original letter on the subject, which it seems has been referred to the solicitor of the department, and which was loaned the agent mentioned for the purpose of determining the scope of his report.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

Inclosures.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 26, 1911.

The COMMISSIONER,
Bureau of Fisheries.

SIR: A letter has been received dated the 23d instant, addressed to the Secretary of this department, by the North American Commercial Co., in which the latter requests that it be furnished by this department with a written statement to the effect that all taxes, rentals, and dues accruing to the United States by reason of said company's expired lease of the sealing right on the Pribilof Islands, have been fully adjusted and settled; that said company has abided by and observed the laws and requirements of Congress and the regulations of the department in the taking of fur seals; and that it has performed the covenants and agreements in said lease.

Mr. Earl, solicitor of the department, to whom the said letter was referred, requested by telephone that I make a report upon the matter, and for that purpose forwarded the letter to me, without formal transmittal. In connection with the matter, I have respectfully to report that so far as the records of the department are concerned, and so far as it is within my knowledge, the said company has satisfactorily performed all of the obligations of its contract as lessee

of the sealing right, and complied with all of the conditions of its bond required by section 1964 of the Revised Statutes.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 23, 1911.*

Hon. CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR: The North American Commercial Co., the lessee during the last 20 years of the seal islands in Alaska, having closed all its transactions as lessee and finally adjusted its accounts with the Government, respectfully requests from the department a letter stating that all rentals, taxes, and dues accruing to the United States by reason of its lease have been fully adjusted and settled, and that so far as at present appears, it has abided by and observed the laws and requirements of Congress, and the regulations of the department in the taking of fur seals and has performed the covenants and agreements in said lease.

This is important, as the bond executed at the time of the lease by the company has upon it several sureties who have since departed this life and whose estates are in the process of settlement, and as the company is informed that the Government can not surrender the bond, a statement we hope may be given to the company that there is no known pecuniary liability resting upon said at this time.

Respectfully,

NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CO.,
By A. B. DAVIS, *Secretary.*

Please address reply to A. B. Davis, secretary North American Commercial Co., care of Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, Kellogg Building, Washington, D. C.

JANUARY 28, 1911.

GENTLEMEN: Receipt is acknowledged of your communication of the 23d instant, stating that your company, the lessee during the last 20 years of the seal islands of Alaska, having closed all its transactions as lessee and finally adjusted its accounts with the Government, is desirous of having the department furnish it with a statement relative to the performance of all its obligations under the lease for the occupancy of those islands.

Pursuant to your request, the department hereby advises you that all rentals, taxes, and dues accruing to the United States by reason of the lease above referred to have been fully adjusted, and that, so far as at present appears, your company has abided by and observed the laws and requirements of Congress and the regulations of the department in the taking of fur seals and has performed all covenants and agreements under the said lease.

Respectfully,

———— ————,
Secretary.

Mr. A. B. DAVIS,
Secretary North American Commercial Co., care Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, Kellogg Building, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, January 31, 1911.

[Memorandum to Dr. Evermann.]

Now that the fur-seal service and all matters pertaining thereto have been taken over by this bureau, it is desirable that the office should have a complete detailed statement of the property and supplies on the seal islands and that arrangements should be made for an annual property return hereafter. You will therefore confer with the agent and assistant agents with reference to this matter. There should be drawn up at once in duplicate (one copy to be retained in Washington and one to be taken to the seal islands) a detailed statement showing the following:

1. Equipment.

(*a*) That belonging to the Government prior to the transfer made July 1, 1910.

(*b*) That purchased from the N. A. Co. July 1, 1910.

2. Supplies.

(*a*) Those purchased from the N. A. Co. and turned over to the Government July 1, 1910.

(*b*) Those purchased in San Francisco and elsewhere subsequent to June 1, 1910, and taken to the islands.

A separate list should be made for each island.

This would be essentially a property return showing the condition of affairs on July 1, 1910. A similar property return should be made on July 1, 1911, this to include a statement of the supplies sold during the fiscal year then ending.

It is understood that the necessary records for (*b*) under "Equipment" and (*a*) and (*b*) under "Supplies" are available at this office.

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

HENRY W. ELLIOTT.

Arrived St. Paul Island, Alaska, as assistant agent seal fisheries, April 24, 1872. Married Alexandra Molovidov, a native of St. Paul Island, July, 1872. Left St. Paul Island with wife and baby May 28, 1873. Spent remainder of that summer on St. George Island.

Under authority of an act of Congress, approved April 22, 1874, visited the islands, remaining on St. Paul from July 14 to August 3 of that year. Visited St. Paul Island from September 22 to September 26, 1876, "as a confirmatory inspection" (p. 3, vol. 3, Seal and Salmon Fisheries and General Resources of Alaska) "on my own responsibility." (Hearing before Committee Merchant Marine and Fisheries, January 29, 1889, 50th Cong., 2d sess., Rpt. 3883, p. 135.)

Under act of Congress approved April 5, 1890, he was on April 7, 1890, appointed a special agent of the Treasury, and visited the islands with his wife and two children from May 21 to August 10 of that year.

In 1890 prepared a monograph, "The Seal Islands of Alaska," for the Twelfth Census.

EMPLOYEE OF THE ALASKA COMMERCIAL CO.

Entered the service of the above company "two years after his employment in the Treasury" (i. e., 1876) as "counsel and advisor" and "under salary of the company" (p. 36, H. R. 2027, 48th Cong., 1st sess.) and "accepted and had at their hands a retainer to appear whenever it was necessary from 1881 until the date the lease was lost, the 12th of March, 1890." (In re Seal Fisheries, hearing before Secretary of the Treasury April 15, 1897, MS.)

"I was paid for it; I was well paid for it." (Hearing before Committee on Ways and Means January 25, 1907, p. 69, MS.)

From this it is evident that when Elliott visited the islands in 1876 "on my own responsibility" he was actually employed by the Alaska Commercial Co., on whose vessel, the steamship *St. Paul*, he traveled. He was likewise so employed when the monograph was written, although he specifically denied the same (H. R. 2027, p. 36, above cited) and also while lobbying for the bill in 1890, under which he was appointed special agent and of which he boasted "in four weeks we had that act." (Hearing first above cited, pp. 2 and 3.)

In answer to the specific question, "Were you not an employee of the Alaska Commercial Co.?" he replied, "No, sir; I never was an employee of the Alaska Commercial Co." (Hearing before Committee of Ways and Means, March 9, 1904, 58th Cong., 2d sess., p. 13.)

At a hearing before the same committee in January, 1907, he was confronted with quotations from two official documents, viz, H. R. 2027, 48th Congress, page 36, and the hearing of March 9, 1904, page 13, above cited, the former showing his employment with the Alaska Commercial Co., the latter his express denial thereof. Several quotations from the writings of his contemporaries and others were produced at the January, 1907, hearing, all of which assailed the truth and veracity of his Alaskan reports. The exposure of his connection with the commercial interests which he had previously denied, together with his statements of a scandalous nature affecting public men, most of whom were dead, not only resulted in his being thoroughly discredited by the committee, but disgusted and incensed the latter to such an extent that it prohibited further printing of the proceedings and practically suppressed the entire hearings. (Fur Trade Review, March, 1907, pp. 190 and 192.)

SECRET CONFIDENTIAL AGENT FOR GREAT BRITAIN.

On November 17, 1890, Elliott filed his report of conditions on the seal islands. The report was not published immediately, but on the contrary was carefully suppressed by this Government pending further investigation because it contained grave charges of mismanagement on the part of this Government, which were entirely at variance with its position assumed in the negotiations then leading to the convention of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration, namely, that sea killing of breeders and not land killing of surplus males was the cause of the herd's decline. Elliott's report specifically held that land killing was the primary cause of the herd's decrease, while sea killing was of only secondary importance; that overdriving of males in 1890 (by the successful rival of Elliott's company) so injured the testes of

these animals as to make them impotent; that the remedy required for the relief of conditions as found by Elliott was the stoppage of land killing, thereby causing the ruin of the company that had obtained the lease through competitive bidding, against the company that had subsidized Elliott since 1876.

Upon further investigation by competent investigators, appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, the charges of misconduct by Elliott were found baseless. The Secretary of the Treasury then refused to publish the report, assigning as his reasons (Treasury to State, Feb. 23, 1893, Seal and Salmon Fisheries, vol. 2, p. 302) that "it was pervaded with a spirit of aggressive criticism instead of being a dispassionate statement of facts; that Mr. Elliott's views had been unduly influenced by his relations toward certain individuals" (meaning the Alaska Commercial Co.); that upon examining this report in the light of the additional information furnished by other investigators, it was further found that Elliott had "so used extracts taken from the records of the islands as to make them appear to substantiate his assertions that mismanagement on the part of the United States has played an important part in the diminution of seal life, which assertions are unsupported by the unabridged records."

It appears, however, that while this Government was attempting to suppress this biased and untruthful report, Elliott was busily engaged in secretly conveying an exact knowledge of its contents to the British Government at a time when Elliott was a Federal employee. Sir George Baden-Powell, the British Bering Sea commissioner, who was engaged at the time in preparing the British case, was informed intimately of the report, its contents, and Elliott's views, by letters from Elliott to Dr. Guillomard, who was an assistant of Baden-Powell (p. 11–12, hearing, Apr. 15, 1897, MS., before Secretary of Treasury above cited). In addition, while urging the adoption of a modus vivendi abolishing killing on the islands by the rival of Elliott's company, after having been rebuffed by the American Secretary of State, Elliott visited the British minister at Washington and had at least one extended conference with him on the subject of the adoption of this modus vivendi by Great Britain (hearing before Secretary of Treasury, Apr. 15, 1897, before cited). Acting, possibly, from a variety of motives, Elliott, while yet an employee of the United States Government, published a digest of his suppressed 1890 report in the New York Evening Post of April 24, 1891, thereby making public at a critical stage those damaging allegations of mismanagement in his report which this Government had been endeavoring to suppress. For this grave infraction of duty he was dismissed the service on April 25, 1891 (hearing, Apr. 15, 1897, before cited), and has not been employed since by this Government.

As a result of these secret negotiations with the British agents and of the unauthorized publication by Elliott of a synopsis of his suppressed report, the British Government demanded the production of the report, or a certified copy, on the second day of the hearing before the tribunal of arbitration, and this Government was forced to produce it (vol. 2, pp. 3–24, Fur-Seal Arbitration).

The report was hurriedly printed in Paris by the British Government (Ibid., vol. 1, p. 8).

That the report in question was written by Elliott with a deliberate intention to deceive is manifest from a letter of his to Mr. D. O. Mills, March 31, 1891, wherein he states:

> I know that I have been repeatedly represented as working to injure your interests on the seal islands, but I have felt that as soon as my report was published you would at once recognize the untruth of the charge and respect me all the more.
>
> But my report has not been published, because after a consultation with Mr. Blaine I freely left it in his hands to use in his own time and manner during the pending negotiations, for unless we can do something to stop this raid of open-water sealers, then there is no use in our attempting to save the seal life by new regulations on the islands.

Further on he says: "Assuming that pelagic sealing would be checked, when I finished my report last December, it seemed to me * * * ."

The motive of the letter, which inclosed "a brief epitome of the status of the seal life as I found it in 1872–1874 and again 16 years later, last summer," has always been construed by the North American Commercial Co. as an offer to enter its employ in a capacity similar to that occupied by him for so many years with the Alaska Commercial Co. The furnishing of an epitome of his 1890 report to the lessees prior to its publication was of course a violation of official confidence.

That Elliott well knew pelagic sealing to be the sole cause of the herd's decrease is evident not only from his letter to Mr. Mills, above cited, but also from a memorandum filed by him February 28, 1890, entitled "Effect of Poaching, 1886–1889." In this paper he stated that statistics at his command showed that 40,000 adult fur-seal skins had been taken annually for the past four years in the North Pacific and Bering Sea; that nine-tenths of this number were female seals heavy with young, making the real total nearly 80,000; that for every skin secured at least 5 seals are mortally wounded, making the loss actually suffered on the breeding and hauling grounds of the Pribilof Islands during the last four years 1,600,000. He ended the paper by stating that conditions would not warrant extreme driving "or the least attempt to select large male seals;" that sealing next summer should be conducted with moderation, "or disaster will speedily ensue and the whole matter be in ruin, scandal, and disgrace." This was the first note of alarm ever sounded by Elliott as to the condition of the seal herd. September 17, 1888, he stated the annual increment was 100,000. Asked "Can any more be killed?" he replied, "I would not like to try the experiment." (H. R. 3883, 50th Cong., 2d sess., p. 146.)

It is a significant fact that the above memorandum was prepared while the different bidders were wrangling with the Treasury Department over the particular merits of their respective bids for the new lease, the bids having been opened eight days previous, i. e., February 20, 1890.

SUCCESSFUL LOBBYING AND METHODS PURSUED.

Elliott's experience on the islands, 1872–73, encouraged him to lobby for and secure the passage of "An act to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to gather authentic information as to the condition of the fur trade in the Territory of Alaska," approved April 22, 1874.

After his appointment under this act a revenue cutter was placed at his disposal (hearing before Committee on Ways and Means, Mar. 9 and 10, 1904, p. 8), and he spent the summer of 1874, with the exception of a short stay on the islands, traveling about the Territory.

This brought him in contact with all the outlying stations of the Alaska Commercial Co., which then and for many years afterwards controlled the fur trade of Alaska and rivaled, if it did not surpass, the Hudson Bay Co. in the fur markets of the world. The enemies of the company charged that it violated the laws of the United States, abused the natives from whom it purchased furs and whom it supplied with provisions, and retarded the development of the Territory by its desire to keep the country a producer of furs exclusively.

Elliott, by his ability to speak the native language, had become familiar with the real or fancied grievances of the natives at every place the company had a station. Besides this knowledge of local affairs he had a reputation as a lobbyist with a wide acquaintance among the lawmakers at Washington, was known as possessing ability with both pen and brush, and had at the time considerable standing as a scientist. He was also well aware of the wants and ambitions of the company. By virtue of his peculiar knowledge and ability and the training he had received while employed by the Government, he was enabled to deal with Alaskan subjects in an authoritative manner and was well fitted for the employment furnished him by the A. C. Co. His supposed duties were to prevent legislation at Washington which might be considered hostile to the interests of the company and to mislead the public by his books and articles in the magazines decrying Alaska generally and endeavoring to keep it a terra incognito.

While he was employed as "counsel and adviser" the counsel and advice he gave had to do with the action and policy of the company throughout the Territory at large rather than on the seal islands, the management of which was in able hands. During this interval the company succeeded in keeping down competition in the purchase of furs other than sealskins, of which it had a monopoly, yet it did this only at considerable expense to itself, and in the meantime the supply of furs was being rapidly reduced. In 1888 the company abandoned some of its less profitable stations and began curtailing its efforts in remote places, apparently giving up the fight for undisputed control of the Territory, which in spite of its efforts and the misrepresentations of Elliott was becoming known and some of its possibilities appreciated. The loss of the sealing lease in 1890 further encouraged the policy of retrenchment and forced the retirement of Elliott from its pay roll. (Current talk on the seal islands among ex-employees of the Alaska Commercial Co.) In an official report by William Gouverneur Morris, special agent of the Treasury Department (vol. 4, pp. 92 to 138, Seal and Salmon and General Resources of Alaska), an article of Elliott's which appeared in the November number of Harper's, 1877, is carefully dissected and roughly handled and Elliott himself referred to (p. 138, ibid.) as a "natural foe of Alaska." Another article by Elliott of the same tenor but later date was severely attacked by Kate Field in the North American Review, but the citation is not at hand.

Gen. O. H. Howard, in a report to the War Department of a tour that he made in 1875, among other things says:

* * * Mr. Elliott's report is now just as the Alaska Commercial Co. desires, and might be mistaken for a statement written by a member of that company.

* * * * * * *

The aim and purpose of such arguments are too transparent to need comment, and although we have no doubt that it does not pay for Mr. Elliott to have any different views, yet we are surprised to find him so little shrewd as to come out with such undisguised and clumsy praise of the Alaska Commercial Co., which lets at once the cat out of the bag.

The governor of Alaska, in his report of 1886, speaking of Elliott, says:

* * * He has no interest whatever in Alaska; the "fox farm" of which he claims the ownership is a myth, his only interest in Alaska, according to his own statement before the House Committee on Territories last spring, is that of a paid lobbyist of the Alaska Commercial Co. in Washington, where he is invariably to be found at every succeeding session of Congress ready to bob up and give wholly disinterested (?) information to the honorable Senators and Members whenever any measure designed to promote the settlement and development of Alaska or better the condition of her people is broached in either House.

* * * * * * *

The fact is, either Mr. Elliott entertains a mistaken idea of the duty he owes to his employers (the Alaska Commercial Co., by whom I am unwilling to believe him prompted in his persistent misrepresentations of Alaska and her people) or else he must be governed by a malicious hatred of the people of this Territory, among whom he is chiefly noted on account of the colossal impediment with which his veracity seems to be afflicted.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Interior by the governor of Alaska, August 30, 1902, Elliott is described as having "been constantly the enemy of Alaska." "I am told," the governor says, "that during the arbitration of the seal question he played wholly into the hands of the British. I think he may well be looked upon with suspicion by any of the departments at Washington, and that nothing should be accepted on his mere statement."

At a hearing before the Committee on Ways and Means, February 18, 1902, he denied having any personal interest in the seal question (H. R. 2303, 57th Cong., 1st sess., p. 17), and at a hearing before the same committee, March 9 and 10, 1904 (58th Cong., 2d sess., p. 9), he in effect reiterated this statement.

In contradistinction to this disinterested attitude his activity as a lobbyist for his personal interest, apparent in the various measures he sought to have enacted into law, is especially brought out in a memorandum prepared by him March 27, 1905, on file in the Department of Commerce and Labor. In this he relates having lobbied from May 4 to May 28, 1900, for an appropriation, and that on the latter date Secretary Hay asked for an appropriation of $4,000 to purchase drawings made by Elliott which he wished to dispose of to the Department of State. He relates in this same memorandum that on March 3, 1903, he succeeded in getting a $20,000 item in the sundry civil bill for a new examination of the seal question, etc., presumably to be conducted by himself. His ambition in this direction was frustrated by the Secretary of State informing him that all sealing matters were in the hands of the Joint High Commission. In the same memorandum he states that on April 2, 1904, he secured the passage of joint resolution No. 18, which was approved April 8, 1904.

On April 12, 1904, he filed a memorandum with the State Department showing the United States indebted to him in the sum of $5,000 for 17 charts, and $4,256 for 34 pictures of seal rookeries, etc., made by him during his stay on the islands, 1872--1874.

The Secretary of State, undoubtedly annoyed by Elliott's importunities, informed him April 13, 1904, that he would pay the first item in the bill, viz, $5,000 for the charts; that he did this only after "mature deliberation and consultation with several persons interested," and that he would not purchase the pictures, and that the latter were at the department, subject to his (Elliott's) orders.

At about this time many of Elliott's pictures were reproduced by jobbing fur houses in New York and given wide circulation as advertisements through the trade.

On September 4, 1906, he advised the Department of Commerce and Labor that the seal raids which occurred on St. Paul Island the previous summer had been planned in San Francisco and Victoria. In reply to a request for information on the subject he stated October 3, 1906, that only he "could place the guilt where it belonged"; that no one else could handle his data, etc. (Files Department of Commerce and Labor.) No attention was paid by the Government to this indirect request for employment.

RECORD AS SEAL PROPHET.

On January 8, 1904, Elliott addressed a memorandum to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, insisting on a cessation of all killing on land, in order that (p. 1) "the fur-seal species of Alaska shall not be completely destroyed, root and branch, on the Pribilof Islands during the coming season, under existing rules and regulations." On page 6 of this memorandum he states: "In this clear light of the close killing of the young male life as given above it will be observed that no young or fresh male blood has been permitted to mature and reach the breeding grounds since 1896." On page 7 he states: "The close killing of the season of 1904 will show at least 20 per cent reduction again, and in 1905 again 20 per cent, at least; to entirely cease by 1907 unless steps are taken at once to stop the run on this life by land (and sea killing) clubbing in 1904 of the choice young male seals, yearlings and upward, to the end of the season of 1906—stop it entirely." On page 8 he states: "No young male seal above 2 years of age will appear next season (1904) on the hauling grounds. Unless an order prohibiting the killing of all choice male seals above 10 months of age shall be made for the seasons of 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1907 on the seal islands of Alaska, no fresh young male blood can mature quickly enough to come onto the breeding grounds and save the birth rate from total collapse in 1907. Even if this is done it will be a close call for that life, anyhow; to postpone such an order to 1905 would be too late, if the species itself is to be saved from complete extirpation. This result will ensue as sure as fate unless the killing is at once held up on the seal islands."

On page 7 he submits "a tabulated statement" in the form of a prophecy, * * * which shows the annual rate of progress in the extermination of the fur-seal herd of Alaska which will take effect under existing rules and regulations by 1907 unless checked in 1904.

According to his table the different classes of seals would decrease in numbers annually until 1909, at which time the remnant of the herd of approximately 150,000 was to consist of 3,000 "pupping cows" and no more; the bulls, bachelors, virgin cows, pups, male and female yearlings having in the meantime become extinct.

The utter worthlessness of his "prophecy" and the ingenious arguments adduced in support of it are apparent by a glance at the seal census of July, 1910, one year after total extermination was to have occurred, which shows approximately 43,000 breeding cows and 130,000 animals of all descriptions in the herd.

His prophecies relative to the prospective land and pelagic catches were equally worthless as shown by the following tables:

LAND KILLING.

Year.	Elliott's prophecy.	Actual catch.
1904	16,000	11,724
1905	8,000	14,857
1906	(?)	14,659
1907		14,501
1908		14,277
1909		14,382
1910		[1] 11,265

SEA KILLING.

1904	20,000	29,006
1905	15,000	25,320
1906	12,000	21,236
1907	10,000	16,036
1908	6,000	18,151
1909		14,373
1910		[2] 4,352

[1] Exclusive of autumn food killing.
[2] Includes only Canadian catch as reported by the United States consul at Victoria. Catch of the Japanese fleet of twenty-odd vessels not reported.

In a letter addressed to Senator Nelson, February 6, 1905 (S. Doc. No. 149, 58th Cong., 3d sess.), Elliott indulges in more prophecies, giving the herd a little better chance for its life than he gave it in 1904, and fixing the number of "fur seals of all classes alive on the Pribilof Islands, October 15, 1908, 29,900." Again, on page 7, ibid., "From 1908 on, if we save all the choice young male seals for breeders and kill nothing on the islands practically, then during 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1915, there will possibly be a variation of as much as 2,500 to 3,000 fewer and then more cows and pups; between 1908 and 1915 there will be less than 6,000 to 7,000 cows and 200 to 300 bulls; yet, with the steady following of 5 or 6 pelagic vessels, out of the 22 now engaged (in 1904), this life can not be increased, even though it can not be much more diminished." He ends the letter with a plea that we restrain "our butchers" and insist that Great Britain "do the same to its butchers" in order that the herd may be restored.

The Japanese, as a factor in the case, are entirely ignored in this letter.

Elliott's prophecies concerning seals and sealing matters in 1904 and 1905 are on a par with his sweeping predictions of 1877 (Harper's Magazine, November number) as to the worthlessness of the

entire Territory of Alaska, except for the production of furs, to wit: "We have learned enough of the country and climate by this time to know that the lands and fishing waters now occupied by the natives of Alaska will never be objects for the cupidity of our people." The salmon output of Alaska for 1910, to say nothing of the other Alaskan fisheries, exceed $11,000,000 in value.

RECORD RE KILLING OF SEALS ERRATIC AND INCONSISTENT.

On September 17, 1888, Elliott stated before the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries that he would not like to try the experiment of killing more than 100,000 seals annually on the islands. (H. R. 5883, 50th Cong., 2d sess., p. 146.) On page 139, ibid., speaking of the seals he states, "I do not think there are very much more there now than there were when I was there. Some of my friends insist there are not quite so many, and others insist there are more; but I think they have not increased much since I was there."

On February 28, 1890, he prepared a memorandum stating that owing to the disastrous effects of pelagic sealing during the preceding four years, sealing in 1890 should be conducted with moderation and no attempt made to select large seals on the killing grounds.

On November 17, 1890, he recommended, in the report subsequently used by the British in support of their case at Paris, that all killing be prohibited for the next seven years (p. 324, vol. 3, Seal and Salmon and General Resources of Alaska).

According to his statement before the Secretary of the Treasury, he spent the months of December, 1894, January and February, 1895, interviewing Mr. Gresham, Mr. Hamlin, and Mr. Wilson, soliciting the aid of these gentlemen for the passage of a measure having for its object the extermination of the seals unless Great Britain would agree to certain arrangements. (Hearing before the Secretary of the Treasury, April 15, 1897, MS., p. 22.) He addressed the Committee on Ways and Means February 22, 1895, advocating the enactment of this measure into law. (Ibid., p. 22.)

On February 18, 1895, he again appeared before the Committee on Ways and Means advocating the enactment of a similar measure into law. (H. R. 451, 54th Cong., 1st sess., pp. 15–17.)

He still maintained this position April 15, 1897. (Hearing before Secretary Treasury Apr. 15, 1897, p. 23.) He advised the Secretary, page 38, ibid., "If you do not get a modus vivendi get everything you can there;" that is to say, every sealskin.

On February 18, 1902, he appeared before the Committee on Ways and Means advocating the enactment into law of a measure "to take and kill each and every fur seal, male and female, as it may be found on the Pribilof Islands." At the hearing, when the drastic nature of such a measure was pressed upon him, he suggested amending the bill so that all but 12,000 or 15,000 would be killed. (H. R. 2303, 57th Cong., 1st sess., p. 6.)

On March 9 and 10, 1904, Elliott appeared before the Committee on Ways and Means advocating the adoption of House Joint Resolution 124, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session, suspending all killing except 5,500 annually for food (see p. 3 of hearing), alleging that killing on the islands was too close and stating, "It becomes necessary at once to step in here and stop this work on the islands

for a period of some years; it may be four; it may be five; it may be seven years; we can not tell how long." Again on the same page he states, "We want to save the fur-seal species itself. If we do not stop this close slaughter of young male seals we can not save the species. We want to save the life itself; we must save those young males from our own hands or lose the life itself, long before the female life itself goes out."

While Elliott in his letter to Senator Nelson, February 6, 1905, above cited, showed great anxiety to restrain our "butchers" from killing seals on land, he appeared before the Committee on Ways and Means in January, 1907, advocating the enactment of a joint resolution to kill down the seals found on the Pribilof Islands to 1,000 males and 10,000 females; conditional upon the inability of this Government, after the lapse of a reasonable time, to secure an amendment of the regulations made in pursuance of the award of the Bering Sea tribunal, governing pelagic sealing. This was the hearing referred to herein, at which Elliott was rebuked by certain members of the committee and discredited by probably every member of it.

At the hearings before the Senate Committee on Conservation prior to the passage of the fur-seal act in April, 1910, Dr. W. T. Hornaday appeared as the representative of the Camp Fire Club of New York, advocating the suspension of all killing on the islands, except for natives' food. In a letter to Representative Cassidy April 25, 1910, Elliott, after stating that the President had directed that the pen which he used in signing the seal bill be sent to Hornaday, says: "Good, for that recognizes me just as much as it does him, since the President has been told over and over again that Hornaday was only acting under the spur of my knowledge and desires in the premises." It is evident from the above extract that, whether Elliott was the motive power behind the Camp Fire Club and its spokesman on the occasion referred to or not, that he has again reversed himself, and that the radical legislation he sought to have enacted in 1907 is in direct opposition to the measure indorsed by him in 1910.

His connection with the Camp Fire Club was established February 4, 1911, when he appeared with the president and counsel of that organization before the Senate Committee on National Resources, advocating the enactment of S. 9959, Sixty-first Congress, third session, which provided that no killing should take place on the seal islands for a period of five years from May 1, 1911.

TO EPITOMIZE.

Elliott's record re the killing of seals, as gleaned from the official documents and memorandum in his own hand, herein cited and on file in the Department of Commerce and Labor, show him to have been generally, with certain qualifications, in favor of killing in the years 1888, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1902, 1907; opposed to killing in the years 1890, 1904, 1905, 1910, 1911.

Elliott was 46 years old in 1892. (Affidavit, p. 120, vol. 2, Seal and Salmon Fisheries and General Resources of Alaska.)

February, 1911.

J. HOMER FRITCH (INC.),
San Francisco, February 25, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR FRIEND LEMBKEY: I have been waiting very patiently to hear from you in regard to your plans for the coming season. About a week ago Mr. Davis telephoned to me upon his return from Washington and delivered your kind messages, all of which was very interesting to me.

I sincerely hope that friend Bowers has recovered from his indisposition and is again able to be in the harness.

The time is getting short, as it will be only a matter of a couple of months or so before you will require the steamer. The boiler is progressing very favorably, and I no doubt will have it all installed and the ship ready for sea by May 10. I have turned down all outside propositions in regard to her and left her entirely free for you. Naturally I am somewhat anxious to know what you are doing at that end, and if you can conveniently do so you will greatly oblige me if you will indicate what the plans are in regard to the vessel.

With best wishes to you all and hoping that everything is going well with you and that I may get an early reply from you, I remain,

Very truly, yours,

J. HOMER FRITCH.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 7, 1911.

The SOLICITOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: Returning the papers submitted with your memorandum of the 4th instant upon the subject of the request for stay of the sale of the Japanese sealing schooner *Tokai Maru*, I inclose also herewith a memorandum embodying the views of this bureau in the matter.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

[Memorandum in re request for instructions for postponement of sale of Japanese sealing schooner *Tokai Maru* at Unalaska, Mar. 22, 1911.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 7, 1911.

The *Tokai Maru* was seized by a United States patrol vessel in Bering Sea, in territorial waters, in June or July, 1910 (exact date not known). Her officers and crew were convicted before the United States commissioner at Unalaska of a violation of the act of June 14, 1906, and each of said officers and crew sentenced by him to pay a fine of $500; this conviction was sustained by the United States district judge at Valdez on January 31, 1911, who also, at the same time, placed a fine of $500 against the vessel for having been employed in violation of the act cited; the vessel was advertised by the United

States marshal to be sold on March 22, 1911, at Unalaska; the correspondent, James Kiefer, desires to have a stay of sale pending an appeal to the circuit court of appeals, at the May, 1911, session, and makes request to the Attorney General for instructions to the United States marshal to that effect.

The correspondent bases his appeal for such action upon two main points, viz:

1. (*a*) That the facts recited in the opinion of the court plainly bring the case within the exceptions of fishing with rod, spear, or gaff; and (*b*) a consideration of the entire statute must lead to the conclusion that the act was intended to prevent commercial fishing and not mere casual fishing for food, as plainly appears to have been the case here.

2. That these men were not doing anything which could be construed as a violation of the statute when the treaty between the United States and Japan is considered; that this treaty gives to Japanese subjects in our waters the rights of our own citizens.

These points may be considered in the order of their statement.

1. It can not be said that the facts stated bring the case within the exceptions mentioned in the statute. It is true that the statute makes certain exceptions within which fishing by aliens is lawful. The exceptions are, fishing with "rod, spear, or gaff"—all of which are essentially operated from land. No other apparatus may be lawfully used by aliens in fishing in Alaskan waters. The officers and crew of this vessel were not fishing with "rod, spear, or gaff," but with hand lines, essentially a commercial device and not covered by the specific exceptions in the statute, and therefore contrary to its provisions when used by aliens in Alaskan waters. We might well consider this objection as being disposed of.

The correspondent alleges that the act was intended to prevent "commercial fishing" and not mere fishing for food, as appears to have been the case with the defendants. This statement necessarily must be challenged. The plain intention of the act was to prevent all fishing in Alaska by aliens except with "rod, spear, or gaff." In fact, the "alien fishing act" (June 14, 1906) under which this vessel was held, places the burden of proof upon any alien vessel having aboard implements for taking or killing fish to show that such implements were not used in violation of the act. The prohibitions and exceptions in the act are alike, specific. If prohibited apparatus were used by an alien, it would be no legal defense to plead that he was fishing for food for himself or others, but not for the purpose of selling the fish he might catch. It can readily be seen that, if an alien were allowed under this act to fish "for food," the amount of supervision required to prevent him from going farther and fishing "commercially" would be so great as to be impossible of accomplishment. The effect of the act, therefore, would be destroyed.

The real object of the act, however, was to prevent encroachments upon United States territory by the crews of alien vessels that landed at isolated points in Alaska to fish either for food or for other purposes and in so doing carrying themselves in such manner as to bring terror and great discomfort upon the native aboriginal inhabitants. The main point of such objectionable operations was in the vicinity of the westernmost islands of the Aleutian chain, notably Attu. Here it was the practice for alien vessels bound for Bering Sea on a sealing

voyage to call, lie in harbor while refitting, and to supply their vessels with water and fish with which to continue a long cruise to the northeastward. Instances are known of these vessels taking charge during an entire summer of a small fishery upon which the Indian residents depended for their winter's food, thereby depriving the natives of a natural source of food supply. Other instances have been reported of alien crews terrorizing and looting small native settlements and of violating native women while landing for food or water. It was mainly to prevent such outrages that fishing by aliens in Alaskan waters was prohibited. In view of this fact, it can not be said that the intention of the act was only to prohibit "commercial" fishing and not "fishing for food."

2. The correspondent claims that no statute was violated when the treaty between the United States and Japan is considered; that the treaty gives to Japanese subjects in our waters the rights of our own citizens.

A copy of the treaty between this Government and Japan is not at hand. It is seriously doubted, however, whether this or any treaty contains a provision of this character, the effect of which would be to prevent this Government from taking any step toward saving for the benefit of its own citizens the natural resources of this country. Undoubtedly the Japanese treaty contains a "favored nation clause," in respect to which the alien fishing act cited is not a violation, as all foreign nations are alike affected by its enforcement.

The real character, however, of this vessel must not be lost sight of. She was not a vessel engaged in the ordinary vocation of the merchant marine nor even in the business of ordinary fishing. She was a vessel fitted especially for the purpose of killing fur seals in the water and so used. This avowed purpose, of which no denial is made, takes her out of the usual category and places her in a class concerning which special legislation has been enacted apart from the alien fishing act cited. This Government, by stringent legislation, prohibits her own citizens and vessels from engaging in this business and even prohibits the furnishing to such vessels of supplies with which to carry on sealing operations (act of Dec. 29, 1897). The supplying of its crew in our territory with food with which to continue sealing seems to have been the very act in which this vessel was engaged when apprehended. Had American citizens furnished the Japanese vessel with the fish which its crew captured, or with other food, they would have been guilty of a violation of our own laws, and an American vessel engaged in the business of sealing would have been liable to seizure not only in territorial waters but on the high seas. For this reason, the claim that this Japanese vessel was apprehended for an act for which an American vessel would not have been punished, or that she was denied rights which are accorded an American vessel, has no basis in fact.

In conclusion, whatever the views of the Department of Justice might be, it would be impossible for it to communicate with the United States marshal at Unalaska before the 22d instant, on which date the sale, it is stated, will take place.

2403—H. Doc. 93, 62–1——73

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 10, 1911.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: Complying with your oral request, made several days ago, I now have the honor to transmit a memorandum on the subject of the disposition of the four fur-seal skins which were brought ashore by certain Japanese landing on St. Paul Island July 30, 1910.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

[Memorandum for the Secretary. In re the disposition of four fur-seal skins brought ashore on St. Paul Island in July, 1910.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 9, 1911.

On July 30, 1910, at 8 a. m., a small boat containing four Japanese landed at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island. The occupants had dragged their boat upon the beach and were proceeding in the direction of the watch house, when they were taken in charge by the native guard. Upon examination by the guard the boat was found to contain four sealskins, two boxes of shotgun shells, two shotguns, together with several sealing knives, two sails, and eight oars. The occupants of the boat stated that they were from the *Hoko Maru*, a Japanese sealing schooner.

They were brought by the guard to the village, a distance of 12 miles from the place where they landed. Afterwards they were placed on board the revenue cutter *Manning* with native witnesses and taken to Unalaska, where they were tried before the United States commissioner, convicted of illegally landing upon the said island, which is a Government reservation, and each sentenced to a week's imprisonment at Unalaska.

Before trial an order from the United States commissioner at Unalaska to Lieut. O'Malley, acting deputy marshal, was issued directing the latter to bring from St. Paul Island all the property of the prisoners left ashore by them. This order when presented was first refused by the agent in charge of the reservation on the ground that the island, being a special Government reservation, the jurisdiction of the said commissioner did not extend over it. Afterwards, to furnish full and sufficient means of securing a conviction, all of the prisoners' property, excepting the four sealskins mentioned, was delivered to the Revenue-Cutter Service and taken to Unalaska. After the sentences of the prisoners had been served their property, already mentioned, was returned to them by the Cutter Service, and they, with their gear, were taken by the Revenue-Cutter Service into the sea and there placed aboard a Japanese sealing schooner for transportation to Japan.

As regards the disposition of the four sealskins, an extract from a report on the subject from the agent in charge is quoted as best explaining the matter:

I did not deliver the four sealskins found in the boat at Northeast Point for the reasons that they were 12 miles from the village; that I did not know their exact location;

that I believed at the time of Mr. O'Mally's visit that they had been left on the beach at the place where the boat landed. The guard at Northeast Point stated to me that these sealskins had been left on the beach. From what I learned afterwards I believe that the guard afterwards brought these skins to the Government salt house at Northeast Point and salted them there; that they became merged with the island catch and were shipped to London with the island skins. Upon counting out the skins from this salt house at the time of shipment Mr. Judge informed me that the number counted out was four in excess of the number counted in.

In regard to the advisability and legal responsibility of delivering over to these Japanese their boats and the sealskins which might be contained therein when illegal landings are made, and after such persons have been convicted of such illegal landing, the following additional extract from the same report is made:

I have acted upon the principle that it should be made as disagreeable as possible for Japanese to land upon the islands in order to deter them from coming there in numbers. If they came in they forfeited their boats whether they were sent to jail or not. To deliver this gear to them after conviction, and furthermore to transport this gear over 200 miles in order to deliver it to them, looks very like placing a premium upon landing on the very islands from which we desire to keep these Japanese farthest away. As a matter of policy I believe these boats and gear brought ashore on the islands should be kept there unless essential as evidence.

The captain, in my opinion, is in error in ascribing among the duties of the agents that of "carefully preserving" the skins which may happen to be found in the boats of those sealers guilty of illegal landing upon the islands. The Pribilof herd of seals is being exterminated by the killing in the sea of breeders. This Government has taken every possible precaution to curtail this killing and to discourage the practice. It provides arms and ammunition on the islands and an efficient patrol about the islands for this purpose. It prescribes penalties for killing seals in the United States territory, forbids unauthorized landings on the islands, and prevents its citizens from furnishing to foreign sealers anything of use in the operation of a pelagic schooner on the high seas. After placing by statute and regulation every possible obstacle in the way of killing seals in the water, to remove sealskins from boats belonging to sealers landing on the islands without authority; to arrest the men, but place the sealskins in salt with the island catch of skins; to use the employees of the Government in caring for and curing these skins; and, after convicting the men of violating the law by unauthorized landing, to hand back to them the cured skins enhanced in value through the efforts of the Government, to be sold in London at increased profit to these wrongdoers, would seem to me the very climax of maladministration.

The possession of skins by Japanese sealers within the 3-mile limit should be deemed prima facie evidence of illegal sealing; the landing of these men was in defiance of the law, and their conviction renders them obnoxious to its penalties, and certainly should disqualify them to make any claim for the boat which furnished them the means of committing an infraction of the law and for the arms and sealskins which were in their possession when apprehended. To give up the skins to these culprits after enhancing their value would be a stultification of the Government's action in trying and convicting them, and as much a violation of the act of December 29, 1897, as to actually furnish supplies with which to continue pelagic operations. If not a contravention of law, it would be so inconsistent with the spirit of the law as to appear absurd and ridiculous.

The suggestion is made that the question whether the United States commissioner has jurisdiction on the seal islands is a trivial one. I think I may justly challenge that view. The question is the reverse of trivial. The Congress has considered it so important as to provide that the islands shall be special Government reservation and that the Secretary of Commerce and Labor shall have sole charge of that reservation. Under the Secretary, the agent is primarily the guardian and protector of the seals. Under that provision he certainly should be the judge of what evidence and what articles and appliances shall be submitted in the trial of persons charged with invading the islands. It is clearly the purpose of the law to remit the islands altogether to the care of the agent under the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. It would be ridiculous to assert that the authority of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor when exercised with respect to a special Government reservation over which he is given exclusive control by the Congress should be rendered ineffective by the order of a United States commissioner.

[Memorandum for the Secretary.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 11, 1911.

Complying with the Secretary's oral inquiry as to the disposition of the four fur-seal skins brought ashore at Northeast Point, St. Paul Island, on July 30, 1910, at 8 a. m., by four members of the Japanese sealing schooner *Hoko Maru*, it is stated that these skins were first left on the beach at the place of landing, were afterwards taken to the salt house at Northeast Point and salted there, and were finally shipped with the island catch of skins to London.

W. I. LEMBKEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 21, 1911.

The COMMISSIONER:

There is transmitted herewith the report of Assistant Agent James Judge of the operations on St. Paul Island, Alaska, covering the period from August 17, 1909, to June 28, 1910.

Respectfully,

BARTON W. EVERMANN,
Assistant in Charge Scientific Inquiry.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 8, 1910.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of affairs on St. Paul Island, Alaska, covering the period from August 17, 1909, to June 28, 1910:

FOXES, ST. PAUL AND OTTER ISLANDS.

Former attempts at feeding.—The experiment of providing artificial food for the foxes on St. Paul Island began in 1897, when a small quantity of corn meal, cracklings, and dried salmon were landed for the purpose. During the ensuing winter the salmon was scattered about the island, but so far as observed the foxes paid no attention to it. In the fall of 1898 seals were killed at Zapadni and Northeast Point, with the expectation of leaving the meat for fox food, but all of it was eaten by the gulls. In the fall of 1900 seals were killed for the same purpose at Half Way and Northeast Points, the meat at the former place being stored in a pit, and at the latter in the salt house. The foxes during the ensuing winter ate some at either place, but the amount consumed was not large. Since the year 1900 seal meat has been preserved for fox food at Northeast Point each fall, only a small portion of which has been eaten by the foxes during the ensuing winters. During the interval from 1900 to 1905, inclusive, no attempt at feeding was made at the village, except occasionally the throwing out of a few salmon, little of which

was ever eaten. In 1906 and 1907 seal meat and offal from the killing fields were buried at the village, and during the winters following the pits were opened for the benefit of the foxes, but the gulls ate most of it. It was not until 1907 that the foxes came for food regularly. During the autumn of that year a large quantity of whale blubber came ashore at the southern end of Lagoon Reef; and subsequently a number of foxes were observed feeding on it daily. To facilitate this feeding numbers of natives were detailed from time to time to cut the blubber into small pieces. All of the blubber that came ashore except some tough parts was eaten, the foxes paying their visits daily until April, 1908. Beginning in February, 1908, salmon was freshened, thrown out on the village flat, and eaten by the foxes until the supply on hand, about 2½ barrels, was consumed. During that winter the foxes also ate the remains of two mules that had been shot by the sealing company the preceding autumn. From March 25 to May 17, 1909, salmon, sea-lion meat, and hog offal were supplied in varying quantities and eaten by the foxes.

Feeding, winter 1909–10.—The partial success attending our efforts at inducing the foxes to partake of food set out for them during the two preceding winters encouraged further efforts in this direction last year. Late in July, 1909, the natives, under my direction, excavated a pit in which some 300 seal carcasses were stored. The pit was then sealed with 3 feet of earth and left for fox food. When the killing of seals for food for the natives was resumed in October the offal from the killing fields was likewise saved and stored in another pit. The latter, especially that which was slightly frozen before burial, was removed from the pit in good condition and was fine fox food. The upper layer of the seal meat buried in July was taken out in fair condition, but the carcasses underneath when removed seldom held together, and as the bottom of the pit was reached the meat came out in small pieces only. These pits give off a vile odor, and the removal of the meat is not a pleasant task, but the foxes eat it with gusto, and as it is the only artificial food available, the inconvenience of handling will continue until better methods are devised. The meat as taken from the pit is no more offensive, however, than the seal meat salted for fox food in the silo on St. George. All offal from domestic animals slaughtered during the winter was also saved for fox food.

When feeding began a runway was constructed into the pit, which was left open in order that the foxes could detect its location and help themselves. This scheme kept the meat from the gulls and worked satisfactorily until the pit was partially filled with snow. It was found that the foxes, though good diggers in sand during the summer, would not go down through the snow when it exceeded 1 foot in depth. A cover was then made for the pit and men assigned to remove meat daily and place it under a box or sack, where it was available for the foxes and out of reach of the gulls.

While food was exposed constantly from October 20, it was not until the middle of January that the foxes came in numbers for it. From January 18 to February 26 the amount consumed per day varied regularly—that is to say, about twice as much was consumed every alternate day. After the latter date there was little or no variation in the daily consumption. On November 13, 1909, 155 seal carcasses were stored in the salt house at Northeast Point.

Occasionally during the winter parties were sent to the point to look around and throw out some of this meat for fox food. In addition to this, several hunting parties visited the point of their own volition, and always threw out some of this meat for the foxes.

The latter, however, paid scant attention to the seal meat; but on several occasions the natives observed the foxes feeding on the remains of sea lions, which were killed at Northeast Point in May, 1909. On March 2, 20 foxes were seen feeding on the remains of the sea lions. The total amount of food reserved for and consumed by the foxes of St. Paul last winter greatly exceeds all previous records, and lends encouragement to the hope that possibly the method of feeding and trapping as practiced on St. George Island may yet become practicable on St. Paul, thereby enabling us to study the animals to better advantage than before.

Trapping.—Being unable to train the foxes to come to the village for food while the skins were prime, and therefore to inaugurate the methods of foxing pursued on St. George, I permitted the use of steel traps for a period of six days, beginning November 28. During the interval 130 blue and 35 white pelts were secured on St. Paul. On December 6 a party of five men visited Otter Island, remaining there until December 14, during which time 1 white and 19 blue were secured, making a total catch for both islands of 149 blue and 36 white skins.

Trapping in the vicinity of the village was carried on by the older men and those who, on account of sickness in their families or for other reasons, did not wish to leave the village. The remainder of the men divided themselves into congenial parties and took up their stations at various places where they located their traps and remained the six days.

The distribution of the animals on the island, as shown by the skins secured, was as follows:

	Blue.	White.
Zapadni	20	12
Southwest Point	8	5
North shore	4	1
Wreck of brig	7	4
Two Lakes, north side	0	0
Polovina	39	3
Village, including Tolstoi	11	2
Telegraph Hill, Kitooi, Lukanim, and Reef	41	8
Otter Island	19	1
Total	149	36

Divided as to sex, 76 blue and 19 white, or 51.3 per cent of the catch, were males.

This proportionately large number of white, comprising nearly 20 per cent of the entire catch, exceeds all former records, except that of the winter of 1903, when a total of 20 animals were killed, 5, or 25 per cent, of which were white.

From the statistics available it appears that in former years, with the exception above stated, the percentage of white skins in the catch of St. Paul varied from 1 to 10 per cent. Trapping on St. Paul practically ceased in 1902–3, when 228 skins were secured. In the following year trapping was carried on but the catch, as noted above,

consisted of only 20 skins, showing fox life then at a very low state. In the increase in fox life that has occurred since on St. Paul it is evident, as above indicated, that white foxes are proportionally more numerous than before. Just why is not clear. Thinking that perhaps some white foxes had arrived from the mainland on the ice I examined all white skins secured and found them blue at the base, thereby confirming their island origin. It may be that when the life was reduced to its lowest point, the percentage of white, through some fortuitous circumstance, was larger than prior thereto and that afterwards those white survivors bred together more frequently than before.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of white foxes on St. George Island tallied closely with that on St. Paul down to 1901. Since the latter date the percentage of white on St. George has not risen higher than 4 per cent, and that high only on one occasion. The reduction on St. George is probably due to the steady and continuous efforts put forth for the extermination of white foxes.

Statistics.—Upon starting out, each foxing party was equipped with a small balance scale, a bottle of formaldehyde for the collection of parasites, and a supply of ruled paper for recording the information desired. All foxes killed by the men operating in the vicinity of the village were brought in by them for post-mortem examination by Dr. Mills and myself.

The following tables show the average weights and approximate ages of 93 males and 76 females, together with the location of the traps:

	Males.					Females.				
	Number examined.	Average weight.	Approximate ages.			Number examined.	Average weight.	Approximate ages.		
			Young.	Middle age.	Old.			Young.	Middle age.	Old.
Zapadni	16	12.3	5	4	7	16	11.5	9	5	2
Polovina	8	11.7	.....	5	3	5	9.9	2	3	.....
Southwest Point	8	11.5	.....	2	6	6	9.0	2	.....	4
North shore	3	10.3	.....	1	2	2	7.5	2	.....	.....
Northeast Point	21	11.6	8	13	.....	26	10.2	14	6	6
Village	23	10.8	11	12	.....	15	9.3	6	9	.....
	.....	.....	24	37	18	.....	.....	35	23	12
Otter Island	14	9.0	.....	.....	.....	6	7.4	.....	.....	.....

The weights on St. Paul varies between 8½ and 15 pounds for males and 7 and 13 pounds for females, indicating that the animals trapped were in good physical condition and well supplied with food. Of those examined 55 males and 35 females were of breeding age, that is to say, 1 year and upwards in the spring of 1909, the remaining 39 having been born at that time. If the females capable of bearing young in the spring of 1909 actually did so, supposing, of course, that a similar distribution as to age existed among the animals which escaped the trap, the percentage of young born which reached maturity was very small, as litters of new born foxes are known to vary between 5 and 12 in number.

The weights on Otter Island varied between 7 and 10½ pounds for males and 6½ and 9 pounds for females, indicating that those animals

were underfed and in poor condition. The relative abundance or scarcity of food suitable for foxes on the respective islands is apparently emphasized in the weights of the animals inhabiting them.

From May until September birds are numerous on either island and furnish food for foxes in abundance. For the next four months Otter Island foxes have only the beach while those on St. Paul have a larger beach, the remains of the seal field and dead upon the seal rookeries to depend on.

With the arrival of the ice in January the foxes travel from one island to the other, remaining where stranded when the ice departs.

Contents of stomachs and intestines.—Of the St. Paul foxes examined seal or bird meat and bones were found in 23 stomachs, fish bones in 14, pulchki in 7, berries in 5, skin of hair seal in 2, ascidans in 1, grass and moss in 88, feathers in 30, sand and earth in 49, kelp in 1, crabs in 1, water in 4, fishline in 1, sea eggs in 9, seal fur in 3. Grass and moss were found in the intestines of 41 St. Paul foxes, sand and earth in 40, feathers in 9, worms in 31, sea eggs in 9, seal fur in 1.

The contents of the stomachs and intestines of the Otter Island foxes showed considerably less variety than the above.

Of the 20 killed at that place the stomachs of 9 carried grass and moss, those of 8 feathers, those of 6 sea eggs, those of 5 fish bones, those of 10 earth and sand. The intestines of the same animals carried grass in 3 cases, sand and earth in 2, and worms in 2.

The worms found were of the round and tape varieties, probably like those usually found in domestic animals.

Size and condition of skins.—The average length of the 76 blue male skins secured when dried and ready for market was 32.3, average width 10.2, average length of tail 15.5. The average length of the 73 blue females taken was 29.4, average width 9.3, average length of tail 15. Skins of the same size animals will vary in length and width, depending on the style of frame used for drying.

The skins secured on St. Paul Island were of an unusually fine quality, being long furred, dark and lustrous, while those taken on Otter Island were inferior in quality, being short furred, streaked with gray, and lacking luster.

Otter Island skins are usually low grades, or at least have been on the three occasions within the last 20 years when foxing has occurred there. In 1894 the catch consisted of 8 skins, all of which were considered too poor to be sent to market. In 1904, 33 skins were secured there. Mr. Lembkey, who directed foxing operations that year, states that none of the catch ranked better than second class.

It would seem that the extra hard conditions under which Otter Island foxes live is reflected in the low-grade quality of the fur produced.

The foxing party last December was towed to Otter Island by the gasoline launch and I observed several foxes in the vicinity of the landing apparently much interested in the work of the natives taking their boat ashore. Shortly after their arrival the natives shot two hair seals, the offal of which was thrown to, and quickly eaten by, the foxes, who showed strong evidence of hunger. That night the foxes hung about the watch house, eating bits of bread and meat thrown out, and taking their departure only after two of their number had been killed with pieces of firewood thrown by the natives, and 8 others had been caught in traps set close by.

On May 30 last Dr. Mills, several natives, and I landed and spent several hours on Otter Island, but none of us saw any evidence of fox life, although the trappers reported that on their departure at least 1 blue and 2 white foxes were still at large on the island. It is possible that those animals crossed over to St. Paul on the ice in January and that their places were not taken by others from St. Paul, because of the plentiful supply of food available and constantly exposed for the benefit of foxes on the latter island.

SEALS.

The idea of confining specimen fur seals in captivity, for the enlightenment and edification of the public, has probably occurred to everyone who has spent any time upon the seal islands. To this end many attempts to rear young pups have been made on the islands, and on one occasion several half-grown seals were sent to Woodwards Gardens, at San Francisco. These experiments ended in failure, owing to the fact that the animals in question could not be taught to feed and eventually died of starvation. For several years past the seal agents have held that pup seals, if taken at about the time their diet is changed from milk to fish, that is, to about the time they would ordinarily begin their first migration, they could possibly be taught to eat fish, and, if so, kept in captivity indefinitely. (Lembkey to Townsend, Jan. 26, 1906; Judge to Baker, Apr. 24, 1906.) The opportunity to test this theory arrived last autumn, and was taken advantage of by my going upon the rookeries and selecting two healthy pups, a male of 38 and a female of 34 pounds, and placing them aboard the revenue cutter *Manning* for transportation to the Bureau of Fisheries at Washington. The pups were subsequently placed in charge of Mr. Judson Thurber, boatswain of the revenue cutter *Bear*, who, during September, 1909, proved his ability to rear seals by teaching an orphan pup to eat fish, said pup having been furnished the surgeon of the *Bear* for other purposes. Mr. Thurber stated that some years previous Mr. Chichester had furnished him an orphan pup which he fed and kept on board until it escaped from the ship. He wished to renew his experiment with starved pups, but on my suggestion took the healthy ones as above stated. The details concerning the shipment are set forth in my letter to Dr. Barton W. Evermann, October 9, 1909, while the success attending the experiment is now matter of common knowledge.

Early in October, assisted by the natives, I made the regular enumeration of dead pups, a detailed account of which was forwarded Mr. Lembkey October 8, 1909. Dr. Mills and I autopsied a number of the dead from each rookery, the total aggregating 23. In making these post-mortems, the stomachs, livers, hearts, and lungs were cut into, and about 1 foot of the large and from 3 to 5 feet of the small intestine carefully examined. The autopsies showed that death resulted in 20 cases from starvation, in 1 from pneumonia, and in 1 from some cause unknown. One of pups autopsied was killed because found suffering and nearly blind from a disease of the eyes. The only parasites discovered were small threadlike worms found in the trachea of a pup from the Reef. These parasites, together with the diseased eyes above noted, were sent to Mr. Chichester for further investigation. Dr. Stiles, to whom the worms were forwarded, determined that they were a new species of the genus *Halarchne*.

The killing of seals for food was resumed October 20 and was continued at intervals as meat was needed until December 23, when the last seals of the season were secured on Sea Lion Rock. Three young cows were accidentally killed November 17. Two of these skins weighed 5¼ pounds each, the other 6 pounds. Dr. Mills and I autopsied these animals and found that neither was pregnant. The ovaries were quite small and showed no scars. The teeth of two of the cows in question were white, while those of the other were somewhat yellow. All three were undoubtedly born during the summer of 1908. On August 21, 1909, a cow, dead as a result of a gunshot wound, was found at Rocky Point. These four cowskins went into the quota of 1910.

November 13 I found 5 pup skins in the possession of a young man returning from guard duty at Northeast Point. An examination of the skins showed that 4 of the animals had been either clubbed or stoned to death, and on investigation it was ascertained that the meat of all 5 was eaten by the watchmen. There is reason to believe that the surreptitious killing of pups is practiced by the natives to a limited extent every fall. It is said to be the work of young men who wish to distinguish themselves by bringing in a meal of choice meat, but it is evident the skins are an object also. The natives procure a few pup skins legitimately during the October counts of rookery dead. If these counts were abolished, and there seems no good reason for their continuance, the possession of pup skins by a native would be strong evidence of illegal killing.

The seals were slow in taking their final departure for the winter. On January 4 I observed about 1 dozen seals on Sea Lion Rock and 3 in the water off Reef Point. A bull seal was reported off East Landing January 18. The latter was the last fur seal observed for the season of 1909. The first bull for the season of 1910 arrived May 9, and took up his position on Reef Point. As opportunity presented itself I counted the rookeries in the vicinity of the village, until the arrival of the supply ship June 29, said counts being as follows:

Count of rookeries.

AMPHITHEATER OF KITOVI.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows present.
May 27	2	1		
June 5	4	3		
June 20	6	3		
June 25	7	2	1	1

KITOVI EXCLUSIVE OF AMPHITHEATER.

May 14	1			
May 19	2			
May 27	13	5		
June 5	29	11		
June 20	44	6		
June 25	54	8	6	6

Count of rookeries—Continued.

LUKANIN.

Date.	Bulls.	Quitters.	Harems.	Cows present.
May 9	1			
May 12	2			
May 14	2			
May 19	7			
May 27	21	1		
June 5	30	5		
June 20	43	10		
June 25	47	6	9	12

LAGOON.

May 28	1			
June 5	4	2		
June 8	8	1		
June 11	8	1		
June 27	12	1	3	7

GORBATCH.

May 19	6			
May 22	23			
May 27	42	2		
June 15	74	6		
June 21	112	4	4	4

REEF.

May 9	1			
May 12	1			
May 13	3			
May 19	13			
May 22	46			
May 27	81	19		

ARDIGUEN ARDIGUEN.

May 19	1			
May 27	3			
June 15	9			
June 21	10	1	1	1
June 24	10		2	2
June 25	10		4	5

TOLSTOI.

May 19	3			
June 8	52	6		
June 22	73	9	14	25

TOLSTOI CLIFFS.

June 8	17			
June 22	26	2	1	1

ZAPADNI.

May 11	1			
May 15	1			
June 8	10			

LITTLE ZAPADNI.

June 8	37	4		
June 22	58	6		

In the absence of new instructions, early in June I conducted the business in accordance with the old ones, so far as they were applicable. A total of 493 bachelor seals, 291 two and 202 three year olds, were, upon this authority, marked and reserved for breeding purposes prior to the arrival of Mr. Lembkey with the current year's instructions June 29.

PELAGIC SEALING.

From the 16th until the 27th of August, 1909, from four to eight sealing schooners, all of which were outside territorial waters, were visible daily from the island. Early in the morning of August 26 a boat containing four Japanese sealers came alongside the *Rush* and asked to be taken aboard. They reported themselves lost, and stated their schooner had sailed for Japan. As their boat contained freshly killed seals Capt. de Otte took the sealers to Unalaska, where, after examination by the United States commissioner at that place, they were released.

On September 2, with the aid of Messrs. Proctor and Dernnin and a native crew, I captured two boats, containing six Japanese belonging to the sealing schooner *Eiun Maru*, while engaged in sealing in territorial waters in the vicinity of Walrus Island. Three other boats, as well as the schooner, were in territorial waters at the time. Two revenue cutters on patrol were notified within three hours after the capture, but their failure to pursue immediately enabled the poaching schooner to escape in the darkness. My letters to the Commissioner of Fisheries, dated September 3 and 9, 1909, contain full accounts of this transaction. Our prisoners were tried by the United States commissioner at Unalaska and sentenced to three months in jail and to pay a fine of $200 each.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Shortly after the departure of the *Homer* I took possession of the hardware, lumber, cement, and other materials intended for improvements to Government property, authorized by the sundry civil act of March 4, 1909, finding same in accordance with the memorandum left for my guidance by Chief Agent Lembkey. In repairing the coal house, a structure 30 by 40 feet, the old wooden floor was removed, the studding and posts spliced and renewed where needed, and the roof properly braced and trussed. The attic was made available as a storage room for boats during winter. In making a new floor the building was paved with large rocks wheeled from the beach, the interstices between the rocks being filled, and the whole covered with 8 inches of concrete, solidly rammed. This was topped with a smooth cushion of sand and cement.

The Government house was raised with jack screws, old sills and joists removed and spliced or renewed, as the case required. Subsills and wooden blocking were not renewed, but instead thereof piers of concrete were built, upon which the building now rests.

A rather pretentious new building 18 by 24 by 9, with gable roof, was erected upon a foundation of concrete. This building is known as the "gun house," and is used for storing the ordnance, small arms, ammunition, and equipment intended for the protection of the island. Work on the foregoing projects kept all hands busy until winter set in.

Under the direction of Company Agent Allis the Government whaleboat was strengthened and made into a launch, and subsequently the gasoline engine was removed from the old launch and installed therein. The new launch, named *Kotik*, is a safe, reliable, and very superior boat. I am under obligations to Capt. Henderson, of the revenue cutter *Thetis*, and Capt. O'Malley and Chief Engineer Porcher, of the revenue cutter *Manning*, for the rods, bolts, and nuts of brass and copper used in remodeling the *Kotik*.

During the winter several boxes of potatoes and onions belonging to the natives and in their possession were frozen and a total loss for the want of proper storage facilities. Excepting a few so-called cellars under native houses there was not a place on the island where winter vegetables could be kept safe from frost. To remedy this condition and prevent a recurrence of loss of vegetables in the future from frost, a large excavation was made under the natives' shop and a properly braced and well-floored cellar built therein, the room when finished measuring 27 by 7 by 7 feet 2 inches.

The construction of the above-mentioned cellar, the widening and grading of two streets, the erection of a small signal station at the flagstaff, and some improvements on the boathouse comprise the list of our activities last spring.

NATIVE INDUSTRIES.

Prior to 1907 there was no place on St. Paul Island where a man could repair his boat or do other work of a like character for himself, or where the natives could gather for social purposes or the holding of a general meeting, except the company buildings, access to which could be had only with the consent of the company agent.

The natives are fond of tools, and without exception each man had a greater or less number to which he kept adding as opportunity presented itself, but which, owing to the lack of a proper place, he could seldom use to advantage. A few had small shops in which to do their repairing, but the great majority had no place to work except their homes, already crowded with their families and belongings. New work, except a small amount done on ivory, was not attempted. The men who had lived or grown up under the latter Russian and early American régimes and had assisted in building the village were dying off, and their sons, brought up under the paralyzing influence of Government support, were not the equal of their fathers in handicraft or self-reliance.

To remedy these conditions and to give the present generation an opportunity to become conversant with the use of tools, I had the men, in the fall of 1906, gather such lumber as remained from the church demolished some time previous and was suitable for building. The following spring shingles and necessary additional lumber were purchased and paid for by the natives which, with the material saved from the old church, was used in erecting a substantial, comfortable, and well-lighted building 40 by 22 feet, with a 9-foot ceiling and large attic overhead.

This building is known as the natives' shop. It is well equipped with iron and wood working tools, including forge, drill press, vises, benches, etc., either contributed or purchased by the natives. A shopkeeper and assistant, elected by the natives and paid a small com-

pensation from the seal division, have full charge of the shop and discharge their duties with fidelity. Since its erection the shop has presented a scene of activity among the natives hitherto unknown on the island. Individual work is of course performed by the person interested, or by his congenial friends forming a gang when this is necessary. Community work is participated in by all, each man being assigned to that for which he is best fitted or for which he shows especial aptitude. Under the community arrangement, oak was brought from the wreck of the *Alexander* on north shore and later cut to the proper dimensions and made into various articles, including wheelbarrows and sleds. The former were produced at one-third their previous cost, while the latter, costing $5 each when purchased from the company, were made for almost nothing. Every family is now supplied with wheelbarrows and sleds, whereas formerly only a few could afford them.

Last winter scarcely a day passed that the shop was not filled with men repairing guns, water barrels, boats, stoves, furniture, and whatnot. Considerable new work was carried on in the making of Morris chairs, camp stools, and toys of various descriptions. Someone started the making of heavy clothes pins, the utility of which soon appealed to all, with the result that several thousand were produced in a short time, from refuse oak. The shop also answers a good purpose in providing a good loafing place for those who have nothing on hand, thereby removing them for the time being from their stuffy and ill-ventilated houses.

Under this head the work of the sewing circle may be noted. The winter of 1905–6 was one of unusual hardship for the natives. For several years preceding prices on the islands had gradually crept upward, while income was steadily going down, with the result that during the winter in question the available resources were scarcely sufficient for the purchase of the necessaries of life. The women and children were short of all kinds of clothing, while the native houses were almost destitute of bed linen and other things necessary for ordinary comfort and decency. To remedy these conditions, I purchased in the fall of 1906 all the flannel, muslin, canton flannel, denim, and cloth on the station, and Mrs. Judge, who had provided a large number of patterns, organized the native women into sewing circles and converted the material purchased into underwear, bed linen, mittens, overalls and jumpers for boys, capes and coats for girls, supplying and making everyone comfortable so far as possible and far beyond anything they had experienced previously. This scheme worked so well and proved so satisfactory from an economical standpoint that the following year and annually since material has been brought purposely from San Francisco for community sewing. Suits for small boys are now made for considerably less money than similar garments cost in the company stores. Every girl and woman now has at least one coat and cape of heavy material, where formerly only a few with money enough to purchase such clothing in San Francisco could afford it. The garments made on the island are neatly trimmed, and as everyone is measured and fitted separately the clothes made are of proper size and look well upon their respective owners.

Several of the women are becoming good cutters, and all are improving in their work as a necessary incident of organization and community effort. While sewing is on, the shop is given over to the

women, who meet and quit on schedule time and who apparently enjoy the social aspect of the meeting.

All social affairs, such as dancing and musical entertainments and lately amateur theatricals, take place in the natives' shop. On these occasions the shop is nicely decorated and well illuminated with lamps and Japanese lanterns.

BIRD LIFE.

During the autumn and winter of 1909 and spring of 1910, I kept a record of the arrival of approximately all birds coming either to breed or visit the island. In this I was assisted by the natives at the village, and also by the watchmen on duty at the different rookeries. Particular attention was paid to the direction and approximate strength of the wind at the time of arrival. An attempt was likewise made to note exactly the departure of those birds, but the data collected, especially that relating to migrants, was confusing, for the reason that these species neither arrive nor leave in one body, and seem never to leave when one is watching and expecting them to do so. The record showed the latest date different species were seen on the island, which was the best that could be done toward fixing the exact time of departure. All data relating to birds was entered in a small book alphabetically arranged for the purpose, which, with a collection of eggs and bird skins, was unfortunately destroyed by fire while en route to Washington last autumn.

On October 19, 1909, two swans arrived at Zapadni in a southeast wind. These birds were shot by the watchmen and found to weigh 9 and 8½ pounds, respectively. They carried great numbers of ectoparasites, some of which were collected and sent to Mr. Chichester.

Last summer was the first time, according to the natives, that a few chikies did not nest on Sea Lion Rock. I counted 16 of the nests of those birds there in 1909. No cause is assigned for their withdrawal at this time.

On May 30, 1910, I visited Otter Island, spending several hours ashore. Fully 200 harlequin ducks were observed about the island. Careful search was made for the nests of these birds, but without result. Arries and redleg kitiwakes were very numerous, but no fresh eggs were found. Owing to the press of other matters I was unable to devote any attention to bird life last summer. While on Otter Island, a hair seal was observed eating a salmon. A concourse of gulls circled above, swooping down at intervals for such scraps as fell. One of the gulls perched for several seconds on the seal's back, without apparently disturbing its equanimity.

WALRUS ISLAND.

Attention is respectfully directed to my report upon conditions on Walrus Island, addressed to Mr. Lembkey, October 12, 1909. For the purpose of supplementing that report I examined the St. Paul Island records from the year 1872, the earliest available, to date. These records show that expeditions were made to Walrus Island for the purpose of procuring eggs for natives' food in the following years, to wit: 1872, 4 times; 1873, once; 1874, once; 1875, twice; 1876,

twice; 1877, once; 1878, no record; 1879, no record; 1880, twice; 1881, no record; 1882, twice; 1883, once; 1884, once; 1885, once; 1886, no record; 1887, 3 times; 1888, once; 1889, twice; 1890, once; 1891, once; 1892, once; 1893, twice; 1894, no record; 1895, no record; 1896, once; 1897, once; 1898, once; 1899, once; 1900, no record; 1901, once; 1902, twice; 1903, 3 times; 1904, once; 1905, once; 1906, once; 1907, once; 1908, once; 1909, once; 1910, once.

The record makes no distinction between trips for cleaning off and those for collecting purposes. It may be stated, however, that when the first trip was not made until late June or early July the fresh eggs were selected and the others swept aside. Probably one-fourth of the breeding area was thus treated on these occasions. The natives are of opinion that no harm resulted from the practice of cleaning off certain areas, said opinion being based on the fact that the denuded spots were shortly after covered with fresh eggs.

On June 16, 1910, a boat's crew visited Walrus Island and took every egg found thereon, as all were fresh. The total of each kind found was as follows: 359 of chikie, 1 of Point Barrow gull, 6 of cormorant, 2 of sea quail, 932 of arrie.

It was my intention to visit Walrus Island later in the summer of 1910 and gather several thousand arrie eggs for native food, as was done in 1909, but high seas prevented the trip during the period the eggs were good or should have been taken.

It is evident that a large herd of bachelor walrus frequented the island bearing that name in former years to sleep and rest. On August 21, 1873, the number seen was estimated by Mr. Lessing at 500. They appeared regularly until 1876, and occasionally from that time until 1893, when their last appearance on the island was noted. The last one killed there was on August 22, 1890, and was taken as a specimen for the Smithsonian Institution. That the herd became extinct is not due to the operations of the inhabitants of St. Paul Island. Three is the highest number of walrus the records show to have been killed at one time, and these were taken for specimens at the request of the white residents. The natives would eat the heart, but neither the ivory nor remainder of the carcass was of use to them. They probably killed a few for sport which were not recorded; but as ammunition was expensive, the number thus destroyed was not great. It seems likely that the quest for walrus farther north has resulted in the extermination of the source of supply whence these bachelors came.

Sea lions of both sexes and all ages haul on Walrus Island at all seasons in limited numbers. It was the custom during the fall and winter months for the St. Paul natives to visit Walrus Island occasionally for the purpose of killing sea-lion pups for food. On February 23, 1887, 20 of these animals were secured. Aside from this the highest killing recorded is five. Visits for this purpose ceased in 1895, with the promulgation of the order of the Secretary of the Treasury prohibiting the killing of sea-lion pups.

On June 11, 1892, a boat's crew sailed to Walrus Island for eggs. They found one fox in sole possession and neither a bird nor an egg in sight. The fox was shot, and the natives returned on the 27th of the same month and filled their boat with fresh eggs.

SCHOOL.

The report of the school-teacher for the term beginning September 1, 1909, and ending April 29, 1910, is herewith appended, marked Exhibit A.

The school was, as usual, conducted in a large room, the enrollment numbering 46 pupils of both sexes, ranging in age from 7 to 16 years. This has been about the average attendance for many years past. English only is taught in the school. Excepting the five hours a day during school term, the children with few exceptions speak little or no English. Only one teacher at a time has ever been employed on St. Paul Island, and his duties have not been confined exclusively to the school. It need surprise no one therefore that little progress has been made in educating the natives. The children as a rule are bright and learn readily when surrounded by proper influences, as has been demonstrated repeatedly by those who have left home and attended the Jesse Lee and Carlisle Indian schools. To entirely change their environment on the island at once is practically impossible, but the school could be made more efficient by employing two teachers, preferably a competent man and wife, and by making the school term 10 months instead of 8; both of which changes are herewith earnestly recommended.

The older people are taking considerable interest in the education of their children, and the influence of a well-conducted school in the future would be beneficial to the community. Prior to leaving St. Paul, I obtained the consent of the parents of three bright boys to their entering the Indian school at Chemawa, Oreg., and have since arranged for their reception at that institution next August. The training at Chemawa is largely industrial, and will be of benefit to the boys, and to the community also, should they again take up their residence on the island.

Manual training would add materially to the efficiency of the school on St. Paul Island, and should be included in the curriculum.

SEAL MEAT FOR NATIVES OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS.

While at Unalaska last August Capt. Foley, United States Revenue-Cutter Service, in charge of the fleet at that port, complimented our service on the amount of salted seal meat, about 100 barrels, shipped from the seal islands for the use of the natives in that vicinity. Capts. de Otte and Haake, of the Revenue-Cutter Service, were present and concurred in the suggestion of Capt. Foley that the salting of seal meat for the use of the natives on the Aleutian Islands be gone into more extensively, adding that the patrol fleet would cheerfully distribute the product. These gentlemen were of opinion that at least 600 barrels of this meat should be preserved and delivered annually to the natives of Akutan, Kashega, Unalaska, Chinofsky, Attu, Atka, Makushin, and Biorka. The natives residing in the villages named are, with few exceptions, very poor, and a liberal supply of meat would add materially to their comfort and well-being and perhaps prevent suffering among them during winter. The scheme contemplated possesses the advantage of utilizing a large quantity of good food, which, under present arrangements, is waste on the seal fields of St. Paul Island.

Owing to the operations on the island, it is not likely that the services of the St. Paul workmen would be available for preserving the meat during the sealing season. I would therefore recommend that two Unalaska natives be taken to St. Paul Island and employed at this work from June 20 to August 20, proximo, and that 500 barrels for holding seal meat and 100 kegs for holding seal oil be purchased for the purpose. I am informed by Mr. William T. Lopp, chief of the Alaska Division, United States Bureau of Education, that the Interior Department will arrange for the payment of the expenditures involved in this transaction.

REINDEER.

Large areas of the islands of St. Paul and St. George are covered with what is known as reindeer moss, sufficient in amount to support large numbers of reindeer. Some years ago arrangements were about completed for introducing a few of these animals on the seal islands, but objection was made by the lessee of the sealing privilege that reindeer would disturb the bachelor seals and interfere with its business. The presence of reindeer on the islands in sufficient numbers to furnish food for the inhabitants during winter would be highly beneficial. It is not believed those animals would frequent the vicinity of the seal rookeries, as these places are void of the moss upon which they feed, and if they went there anyway adequate measures could be taken to prevent their doing harm.

I would therefore recommend that negotiations be entered into with the Interior and Treasury Departments for procuring and transporting to the islands of St. Paul and St. George such numbers of male and female reindeer as may be deemed advisable and can be conveniently carried by the revenue cutter *Bear*.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES JUDGE,
Assistant Agent Seal Fisheries.

The COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

[Memorandum in re sources from which fur-seal skins, which composed the 1910 catch, were obtained.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 21, 1911.

Number shipped, both islands, for Government account		12,920
Left from previous season, St. George	4	
Found dead on beach, St. Paul	1	
Left on beach by Japanese, who landed on St. Paul July 30, 1910, without authority	4	
		9
Total taken in drives of 1910		12,911

W. I. LEMBKEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 28, 1911.

Messrs. B. W. EVERMANN, Chief Division of Alaska Fisheries, and C. W. SCUDDER, accountant, Bureau of Fisheries.

GENTLEMEN: In view of the fact that the Alaska fisheries service, with a large appropriation, is a new division of this bureau, with untried duties and responsibilities, it is imperative that a satisfactory method of accounting—both for property, including its purchase, issue, and sale, and for a proper and expeditious handling of accounts—be inaugurated. You are appointed a board to formulate and submit for approval, without delay, proper methods and forms. It may be desirable that you confer with the disbursing clerk of the department, and you will, of course, call on any employee of this bureau for such information as may be necessary. Since the business for the succeeding year will soon begin, this report is desired at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 31, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent in Charge Seal Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.:

1. *Order to proceed to the islands.*—You are directed to leave Washington at a date to be determined hereafter and to proceed to the Pacific coast. There you will purchase at reasonable prices, after first securing competitive bids whenever practicable, such merchandise as will be required on the Pribilof Islands for the natives and others. Preliminary arrangements have been made by this bureau for chartering the steamer *Homer* to transport these supplies to the islands and to bring the sealskins from the islands in the fall. You are directed to complete the arrangements for such chartering and to sign such charter for the Government, subject to the approval of the Department of Commerce and Labor. It is understood that the *Homer* will be ready for service by May 15, proximo. Assistant Agents Judge and Clark will accompany you to San Francisco to assist you in the duties involved in the purchase of merchandise and the shipment of the same, and will proceed with you to the islands. Detailed travel orders will be furnished separately.

It is believed that Acting Agent Proctor, on St. George Island, will desire to return to the States for a short vacation, and by leaving there when the vessel first returns will be available for service in San Francisco in purchasing such supplies as will be required to be shipped on the second trip of the vessel. If, however, this arrangement can not be made, in the event of the impossibility of your communicating with the bureau, you will make such provision for the purchase of the summer's supplies as seems best in your judgment.

2. *Assignment of agents.*—You will make such assignment of the assistant agents and other employees for the season as in your judgment seems best, notifying the department of your action hereunder.

At the close of the sealing season you will return to San Francisco with Assistant Agent Chichester. After performing such duties on the coast as are necessary in the way of shipping the skins onto cars and discharging the vessel, you and the assistant agent mentioned will return to the department in Washington for duty.

3. *Change of laws relating to seal islands.*—You are informed that the act approved April 21, 1910, repeals that portion of the previous law which required the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to lease the right to kill seals on the islands. The act mentioned authorizes such killing to be done by agents, officers, and employees of the United States appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. Copies of said act are herewith transmitted, and it will be your duty and that of the assistant agents and other officers and employees of the department to see that its provisions are strictly enforced.

4. *Agent in charge to have supervision.*—As agent in charge you will have general supervision over the killing of seals and foxes, the affairs of the natives, and all other interests of the Government on the islands. You should indicate to the assistant agents and others the nature of their duties and secure as far as possible the good administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to the islands. Should a difference of opinion arise at any time between yourself and any of the assistant agents, employees, etc., in respect to a matter of administration on the islands, your decision must govern. If desired, however, you should request the agent or employee to state his views in writing upon the question under discussion, which you should submit to the department, with a statement of your action and views thereon.

5. *Quota.*—No specified quota of male seals to be killed for their skins will be fixed. The number killed, however, should not be fewer than the normal yield of the herd after exempting from slaughter a safe margin to insure a supply of males for breeding purposes.

You are instructed, therefore, to cause the hauling grounds on both islands to be driven regularly, but not too often, until July 31, and to direct the killing of such male seals as may be found thereon having skins within the weights hereafter mentioned, excepting those reserved as breeders. Such skins as are secured by the methods outlined should be salted, bundled, and prepared for shipment at the usual time, namely, about August 15. Care should be taken to exempt from slaughter all 4-year-old males and all females.

6. *Reservation of young males.*—To insure the escape from the killing fields of enough young male seals to supply the required number of breeding adults in future, you are instructed to release 1,000 3-year-old males in the proportion of 800 on St. Paul and 200 on St. George. The seals thus released are to be marked in such manner as will make them readily recognizable throughout the season, and under no circumstances are they to be killed.

The reservation of 2-year-olds for breeders is considered unnecessary, for the reason that with supervision of driving in the hands of Government representatives the driving will not be too close, and that consequently enough 2-year-olds will escape the drives altogether to provide a sufficient number of 3-year-olds the following year. These will be in addition to those 2-year-olds escaping from the killing fields and having skins weighing 5 pounds and under.

The seals reserved for marking are to be of the best examples in the herd. No seal patently undersize or having any deformity should be included in the number so reserved. Wherever possible, experiments in selective breeding should be undertaken by reserving for breeding only those giving evidence of the highest physical attributes.

7. *Event of international agreement.*—The foregoing instructions respecting killing of seals and reservation of bachelors are predicated upon the assumption that no international agreement will be reached this summer putting a stop to pelagic sealing. In the event that such an arrangement should be reached before the end of the current season, doubtless you will receive additional instructions with a view of regulating the killing in accordance with any special arrangements made with foreign Governments interested.

8. *Sizes of killable seals.*—No seals shall be killed having skins weighing less than 5 pounds nor more than 8½ pounds. All skins taken should be weighed carefully and the weights, or a summary thereof, reported to the department. While it is understood that an occasional accident or error of judgment will result in the killing of a seal having a skin outside the weights mentioned, yet the greatest care should be exercised not to kill seals other than those specified as eligible.

9. *Killing season.*—The killing season should begin as soon as seals haul in numbers sufficient to justify driving, but should cease on July 31 because of the approach of the "stagey" season and of the presence of adult and yearling female seals in the drives. You should use your judgment as to whether drives should be made less frequently at the close of the season to obviate the possibility of young females being killed by accident due to the difficulty in distinguishing them from bachelors. The killing of pups for food for the natives, or for any other purpose, is not to be permitted.

10. *Seals for food.*—Driving for natives' food should not begin before October 20, and care should be exercised at that time that the skins of seals killed be not "stagey" to a degree that would impair the commercial value of the skin. Drives for food should be made not oftener than the needs of the natives in that respect require. Drives for food on rookeries remote from the villages should not be made unless the carcasses are actually necessary for natives' food or for food for foxes, or for some other sound reason, and in any event, care should be taken to preserve for future use the carcasses of such seals as are not immediately disposed of. The number of seals to be killed for natives' food for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1911, should not exceed 1,700 on St. Paul and 500 on St. George. No female seal, or seal having a skin weighing under 5 pounds, or more than 7 pounds, shall be killed during the so-called "food-killing season." Care shall be taken that no reserved or mark bachelors be killed in the drives for food, or at any other time.

11. *Driving.*—The methods of conducting drives for skins heretofore practiced should be followed. The time, place, and manner of conducting drives should be fixed by you or by an assistant agent assigned by you to that duty. A representative of the Government should be present on the killing ground in each instance to superintend the killing.

12. *Killing grounds.*—As heretofore, you will establish on each of the islands killing grounds that can be reached by the shortest

possible drive, provided, however, that such killing grounds must be at places sufficiently distant from the rookeries to prevent annoyance from the decaying carcasses.

13. *Counting skins.*—All the sealskins should be carefully counted into the salt houses in the presence of representatives of the department and of the native community, and a receipt in duplicate in the following form should be prepared, to be signed by each of said representatives:

ST. ——— ISLAND,
———, ——, *191—*.

We certify that there have been placed in salt in the salt house in our presence ——— sealskins.

———— ————,
For Department of Commerce and Labor.

———— ————,
For native community.

14. *Receipts for sealskins salted.*—The originals of the receipts prepared in accordance with the preceding paragraph should be retained by the representative of the department for the files of the island, while the duplicates should be transmitted by you to the department. At the close of the season, when the sealskins are counted again and shipped on board the steamer, the usual annual receipts should be signed by the captain of the steamer and the representative of the department.

15. *Trading in skins.*—Attention is called to the fact that section 2 of the act approved April 21, 1910, entitled "An act to protect the seal fisheries of Alaska, and for other purposes," provides that "any and all sealskins taken under the authority conferred by the preceding section shall be sold by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor in such market, at such times, and in such manner as he may deem most advantageous." Care should be taken to prevent the disposal of skins of seals or of foxes by the natives or others to any person or persons except in the manner prescribed by these or other regulations. All trading in sealskins by the natives is to be strictly prohibited, nor shall the natives be permitted to do any trading in fox skins.

16. *Measures to prevent shipment of skins by natives.*—To avoid the possibility of seal or fox skins being surreptitiously shipped from the islands, you are directed to continue the practice of examining all goods to be shipped by the natives, including baggage and personal effects, and where barrels, casks, boxes, or other receptacles are used, they should be closed under your supervision, after an examination of the contents, before being placed in the warehouse. Any skins found concealed in packages to be shipped by the natives should be seized and held, subject to instructions from the department.

17. *Census of seal herd.*—Because of the great activity of the pelagic sealers about the islands, it is believed unwise to disturb unnecessarily the breeding seals, thereby driving them into the water. For this reason, counting of the rookeries should be discontinued, except that necessary to make the annual enumeration of harems and breeding bulls about July 15. If you deem it advisable, the pups on Kitovi rookery on St. Paul, and North rookery on St. George, may be cou ted on or about July 31, to determine the size of the average harem thereon. At the close of the season and after the departure of the pelagic

sealing fleets an enumeration of dead pups may be made and such information reported regarding the cause of death as can be obtained.

Should pelagic sealing be abolished by international agreement it is desirable to have made a thorough and exact census of all the seals of whatever class on each island, and definite directions to that end will be prepared in due time.

18. *Care of the natives.*—The care and welfare of the natives should receive your close attention and, in fact, that of all the Government agents and employees on the islands. It shall be your duty to see that the natives are supplied, so far as funds will permit, with the necessaries of life to an amount sufficient to maintain them in comfort, due regard being paid to economy and thrift.

19. *Compensation to natives.*—The compensation to the natives for killing seals and for salting, curing, bundling, and loading the sealskins has been 40 cents for each skin during the lease of the Alaska Commercial Co., and 50 cents, and later 75 cents, during the lease of the North American Commercial Co. During the year 1910, when the Government took sealskins without the intervention of a lessee, the compensation for taking sealskins was $1 each. The sums realized from the taking of these skins were not sufficient for the support of the natives, and the amount lacking was supplied as a gratuity by an appropriation of Congress of $19,500 annually.

This annual appropriation has been discontinued by Congress. It is the purpose of this bureau not only to secure the comfort and maintenance of these people, as required by law, but also, while so doing, to better their social and moral condition by doing away with gratuities and furnishing them with the necessaries of life only as a return for labor performed. In other words, it is the intention to make the natives self-supporting through the earnings from taking seal and fox skins and other labor performed by them.

With this object in view, a stipulated price to be paid for each sealskin to be taken by the natives will not be fixed at this time, because of the impossibility of forecasting the total catch for the ensuing season. The total amount, however, which will be necessary to support the natives for a year, and which is to be derived from this labor in taking seal and fox skins, is approximately $35,000. For this amount the natives should be required by agreement in writing to kill, salt, cure, bundle, and handle the sealskins, guard the seal rookeries, repair roads, brand or otherwise mark such seals as are designated to be reserved, to furnish the labor requisite in any experiments to feed seals or foxes, to repair their own dwellings, assist in transporting passengers and mail, and to do, in short, any other work that may be considered necessary and expedient in connection with seals or foxes, or to promote the good of the community on those islands.

The amount which the natives are to receive for taking fox skins is $5 for each blue and $1 for each white fox skin. At the end of the sealing season you will fix a rate of payment for sealskins which, with the amount which the natives will receive from fox skins, will bring the aggregate of their earnings from both of these sources to $35,000.

The taking of fox skins on St. Paul Island is not community work, but is done individually. It has been the custom on that island to credit each man with the amount due for the fox skins taken by him. It is believed that, following this custom, if fox skins were taken on St. Paul last winter the money thus earned by the natives has already

been distributed. For this reason in computing the rate of payment for sealskins under the foregoing instruction only the amount earned from foxing on St. George should be taken into account.

The money thus earned by the taking of sealskins on both islands and fox skins on St. George Island should be formed into a general fund, which should be divided among all the natives of both islands. This fund, by agreement with the natives, is to be used for their support at the rate of a certain weekly amount for each family based upon the number of mouths in that family. The balance or remainder of each native's allotment shall be paid to him either in cash or in merchandise as he may elect.

The goods sold to the natives should be at an advance of 33⅓ per cent over wholesale cost price.

20. *Payments of cash for sundry labor.*—The system of payment of cash to the natives for miscellaneous labor (not in connection with the taking of seals and foxes) incident to maintaining the stations shall be continued. The labor for which they will be compensated hereunder should be such only as they may not properly be requested to perform as a community under the arrangement in the preceding paragraph.

21. *Coal supply.*—The amount of coal which will be required on the islands during the coming year will be as follows:

	Tons.	
St. Paul:		
Government house	15	
Natives' use	250	
Other buildings	50	
		315
St. George:		
Government house	15	
Natives' use	115	
Other buildings	45	
		175
Total		490

This coal should be of good quality and sacked. You should make inquiries of the various dealers and purchase the coal at the lowest price for the quality desired.

22. *Dwellings of the natives.*—Title to the natives' dwellings on the islands has been acquired by the Government. It will be the duty of yourself and the assistant agents to see that the natives keep them in repair so far as they can with the means at their disposal. Efforts should be made to obtain better sanitary conditions in these dwellings. Where more people are domiciled in a house than are considered proper, you should do what you can toward alleviating the condition.

23. *Schools for the natives.*—As heretofore, the schools on both islands should be maintained during eight months in the year, beginning on the first Monday in September and ending on the last Friday in April.

Detailed suggestions as to the conduct of these schools having previously been furnished you in instructions supplementary to those annual instructions of 1910, it is not desirable to augment them until the result of their application has been learned. The principal church holidays may be observed, as on these days it is conceived that the attention of the children can not be directed toward solely secular matters.

24. *Bank accounts of the natives.*—The practice of depositing in San Francisco such funds belonging to the natives as they may desire to have formed into savings accounts should be continued. The interest on such funds as are now on deposit in San Francisco should be collected and paid to the natives to whom it is due. A report upon the various transactions under this instruction should be made.

25. *Election of native chiefs.*—The natives should be allowed to select their own chiefs without interference unless persons are chosen for these positions who are manifestly unfit. In the latter case it will be your duty to interpose in the interest of good government and require the selection of proper persons, but such action should be taken only in extreme cases.

26. *Sale of intoxicants prohibited.*—The law prohibits the sale of liquor to the native inhabitants of Alaska. It will be your duty to see that liquor is not sold to the natives of the Pribilof Islands from vessels touching there, or by anyone, and in case liquors are sold you should use every effort to have the person selling such liquor apprehended and punished. Liquors should not be furnished to the natives except for medicinal purposes.

27. *Manufacture of intoxicants.*—The brewing or distilling on the islands of intoxicating beverages is prohibited. In the enforcement of this provision you are authorized to discontinue the issue of sugar or other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants to any person who violates this order or who is found to be intoxicated. Should intoxication become so general among the people as to interfere with good government and jeopardize the peace, you are authorized to discontinue altogether the issue of sugar and other articles entering into the manufacture of intoxicants for such length of time as may appear wise.

28. *Removal for cause.*—Should natives or other persons become so unruly or immoral in conduct as to endanger the peace and good government of the people, they should be removed from the islands, and the Revenue-Cutter Service will be instructed to render such assistance as may be necessary for that purpose.

29. *Landing on the islands restricted.*—No persons other than Government officers and accredited representatives of the Russian Church shall be allowed to land on the islands unless they have written authority from the department or unless, in special cases, the landing be authorized by yourself or the assistant agents. The permission granted representatives of the Russian Church to visit the islands may be suspended, however, when its exercise is attempted by an improper person. Visitors to the islands should not be permitted to inspect the rookeries except under proper supervision.

30. *Killing of sea lions to be limited.*—The preservation of the sea-lion rookeries on the islands is highly important. The killing of these animals should be limited to such numbers as are absolutely necessary in providing for the construction of bidarras or skin boats. Sea-lion pups should not be killed for any purpose.

31. *Information regarding affairs of the islands.*—Information regarding the seals, or any other matter pertaining to the seal islands, is not to be given out by you or by any other person or persons on the islands. All applications for such information should be referred to the department.

32. *Guarding the rookeries.*—Arms and ammunition have been placed upon the islands by the Government for the purpose of protecting the seals and especially the breeding rookeries from marauders who may seek to land upon the islands and kill the seals. It will be the duty of yourself and the assistant agents to enforce as far as practicable the laws for the protection of the rookeries and the prohibition against unauthorized persons landing upon the islands. To this end native guards should be maintained upon such isolated rookeries as are in danger of raids, and the native men should be drilled and otherwise instructed in the use of rifles furnished for the protection of Government property.

33. *Mess.*—It appearing that conditions on the seal islands do not admit of regular housekeeping by the agents and employees without interfering with the transaction of the public business, authority is given for continuing the mess.

34. *Foxes.*—It is believed that there is sufficient fox food remaining on St. George Island, with what seal meat will be preserved next season, to feed the fox herd on that island without the necessity of buying additional food. If such is not the case, however, you will take such action as will provide enough food for the foxes on that island.

The present methods of trapping foxes on St. George should be followed. The number to be reserved from the trapping as breeders on that island must be left to the discretion of the agent who will be in charge of the island during the coming winter.

The apparent diminution in fox life on St. George which occurred during the winter of 1909–10 should be given the serious attention of the naturalist and of the agent on that island. Food should be exposed at the village or elsewhere in sufficient quantities to insure that the foxes are not suffering from lack of it, and careful watch should be kept to discover whether foxes are dying about the island in any unusual numbers. Whatever information can be obtained as to the cause of this decrease in the catch of foxes should be collated and reported.

It is not considered advisable to give specific instructions as to the trapping of foxes on St. Paul. The subject should receive the close attention of the naturalist and the assistant agent in charge of that island during the ensuing winter. The efforts of the agents to feed the foxes on that island which have been partially successful should be continued with a view of combining the foxes into a herd upon which systematic methods of feeding and trapping may be practiced.

35. *Naturalist.*—As set forth in the detailed instructions of July 27, 1910 (all of which are hereby made a part of present orders and instructions), the naturalist will, under your general supervision, have immediate charge of all matters pertaining to the investigation, study, and management of the fur-seal herd, the blue foxes, and all other life on the islands; advise with the agent in charge regarding the number of seals and foxes to be killed each season; exercise direct supervision of all educational matters and general supervision of all matters pertaining to the health and well-being of the natives. The naturalist will submit to the bureau, through you and not later than the close of the season of 1911, a full and detailed report on the various matters with which he is specifically charged, together with such suggestions and recommendations as he believes will be for the good of the service.

36. *Regulations in re fur-bearing animals.*—Your attention is called to the provision in the act of April 21, 1910, which places with this department all the fur-bearing animals of Alaska. The Secretary has promulgated a series of regulations (Alaska fisheries service, Circular No. 1) under which fur-bearing animals may be lawfully taken. It is desired that the agent, assistant agents, naturalist, and all other employees on the seal islands shall act whenever opportunity affords as special wardens for the enforcement of these regulations. Detailed instructions will be furnished later.

37. *Conclusion.*—Should questions arise involving matters not covered by these instructions, it will be your duty to report the facts to the department and to await instructions, except in cases requiring immediate decision, when you will take such action as sound judgment dictates.

The instructions embodied in this letter are to remain in force until they are superseded by later ones, and in the event of your failure to receive revised instructions for a subsequent season the directions herein given are to be followed for such season so far as they are applicable.

Four additional copies of this letter are inclosed herewith, and you are directed to furnish one of these copies to each of the assistant agents and to the naturalist for their information and guidance.

Respectfully,

_____ _____,
Commissioner.

Approved.

CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 3, 1911.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: In the development of a practical method of accounting in connection with the business matters pertaining to the fur-seal service certain difficulties present themselves on account of the isolation of the seal islands and the unique character of many problems involved.

It is believed that if the disbursing agent or some one in his office could visit the seal islands and acquire personal knowledge of local needs and conditions, the office would then be in a position to develop a system of accounting, including purchase of supplies, record and inventories of property on the islands, rendering accounts, submission of vouchers and filing of reports, which would be in the interest of economy and efficient administration.

I therefore have the honor to recommend that Mr. G. G. Box, of the disbursing office, be instructed to proceed to San Francisco on or about April 15, where he will assist Agent Lembkey with the purchase of the supplies to be sent to the islands this spring. This will give him an opportunity to become familiar with market conditions and enable him to advise intelligently as to the details of this phase of the

question. He should then accompany Agent Lembkey to the seal islands, where he will have an opportunity to familiarize himself with the conditions there. He should visit both islands and return to San Francisco on the last trip of the steamer, which will be late in August.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Approved.

C. N.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, April 12, 1911.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 3d instant recommending that Mr. George G. Box, of this office, be instructed to proceed to San Francisco on or about April 15 for the purpose of assisting Agent Lembkey in the purchase of supplies to be sent to the seal islands this spring, and later to proceed to the islands for the purpose of installing a system of accounting for the better protection of the interests of the Government.

After careful consideration of your recommendation and after conference with yourself and other officials of the department, I have concluded that the expense of this trip will be fully justified by the end to be gained. I realize that the isolation of the seal islands and the long intervals that must necessarily elapse between the agent's reports require that the system of accounting, inventories, etc., be both comprehensive and exact, and I therefore approve your recommendation to have the system installed by a representative of my immediate office, who is known to be thoroughly competent to undertake the task.

Respectfully,

CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

THE COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
April 14, 1911.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR: I respectfully request that George G. Box, clerk, be authorized to travel, as indicated below, by the most direct or usually traveled route, the expense of such travel to be paid from the appropriation "Alaska fisheries service," there being sufficient balance therein in excess of liabilities already incurred for the payment of the expenses involved.

From Washington, D. C., to San Francisco, Cal., and the Pribilof Islands and return to Washington, for the purpose of assisting with the purchase of supplies for the Pribilof Islands and inaugurating a satisfactory method of accounting in seal-fishery fiscal matters.

(See further instructions, which will be furnished.)

This travel to begin on April 16, 1911, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Recorded.

R. M. PINDELL, Jr.,
Chief Clerk.

Authorized.

BEN. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 15, 1911.

Mr. G. G. Box,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: There is inclosed herewith one copy each of letters of instruction to agent in charge of seal fisheries of dates March 29, 1909, March 31, 1909, and July 27, 1910. It is believed that these will be of interest and value to you in connection with the inquiries which you will make on the seal islands this summer. You will see from them that we had already anticipated most of the difficulties which would arise, and had provided for putting the records in proper shape, as well as for making the necessary investigations.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Acting Commissioner.

MEMORANDUM.

Upon your arrival at the fur-seal islands you will be the personal representative of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. Your work at the islands will be to study the conditions with the view of organizing and to putting into effect while on the islands a system of records and accounts to control the fiscal and store operations on the islands and to control and account for properties. You should address yourself to the work in such a way as to render an accounting at the close of each fiscal year in time to have the accounts transmitted to the Bureau of Fisheries on the steamer leaving the islands on the second trip. The details of these accounts will be left to your judgment, with the mere suggestion that they should be simple and effective.

Receive further verbal instructions from disbursing clerk and Commissioner of Fisheries. Assist Lembkey in purchasing and shipping supplies.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 15, 1911.

Mr. G. G. Box,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: To enable you to carry out the purposes of your visit to San Francisco and the Pribilof Islands, for which you have already

received travel orders, you will be governed by the following detailed instructions:

1. While in San Francisco you will assist Agent Lembkey in purchasing the supplies to be shipped to the Pribilof Islands. While doing this it is desired that you give attention to all the details of purchase of goods, including desirability and practicability of securing proposals, rendering bills, delivery of goods at wharf, and loading of goods on steamer; also the matter of charter or purchase of boat at San Francisco or elsewhere.

2. Upon your arrival at the seal islands you will be the personal representative of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor. While there you will study the local conditions for the purpose of organizing and putting into effect a system of records and accounts to control the fiscal and store operations on the islands and to control and account for properties.

The system which you develop and install should be such as will provide for an accounting at the close of each fiscal year in time to have the accounts transmitted to the Bureau of Fisheries on the steamer leaving the islands on the second return trip.

The details of these accounts will be left to your judgment, with the suggestion that they should be simple and effective.

3. Concerning the scope and details of the observations and inquiries you will make while on the islands, the following suggestions are offered:

(*a*) The Government property on the Pribilof Islands falls naturally under three heads, viz: (1) Property owned by the Government prior to June 30, 1910; (2) property acquired by the Government by purchase and transfer from the North American Commercial Co. on July 1, 1910; (3) property (supplies, etc.) purchased in San Francisco and taken to the islands in the summer of 1910 and subsequently.

An itemized inventory showing the amount and cost (or value) of property in each of these categories for each island has already been requested of the agent and should be made as of initial importance.

(*b*) Methods of handling goods from their unloading at the islands to their disposal to the natives or others. This will include: (1) Manner of conducting the store; number of days each week it should be kept open and the hours; character and amount of clerical work, including bookkeeping, involved and the clerical help necessary; (2) method of accounting for goods, including invoices, sales, inventories, etc. It goes without saying that this should include amount and cost of each article received, amount of each article sold, and amount received therefor (and perhaps to whom sold), and amount on hand at end of fiscal year.

4. It is also desired that you give careful consideration to the matter of practicable, proper, and just mess arrangements.

5. In short, you will give consideration to all matters pertaining to the administration of the business affairs of the fur-seal fisheries, and upon your return to Washington you will submit a full report thereon.

6. Copies of these instructions will be furnished Agent Lembkey and his assistants.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Approved.

_____ _____,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 8, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: The bureau has received from the Department of Agriculture six packages of seeds of various kinds for experimental planting on St. George and St. Paul Islands. Kindly see that these are turned over to Dr. Hahn, the naturalist.

Respectfully,

I. H. DUNLAP,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 10, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Your attention is again called to the questions of sanitation and education on the seal islands.

It is understood that several of the houses occupied by the natives are either too small or otherwise ill suited as residences. It is desired that the various native residences be inspected carefully and that steps be at once taken to put them all in such condition as will render them not only sanitary but comfortable. Any that is too small for the family occupying it should be enlarged.

The problem as to the type or kind of education that will prove most useful to the natives should receive careful thought and consideration. It is clear that the education that will best meet the needs of these people is that education which will best enable them to take care of themselves in a rational and sanitary manner and which will enable them to perform intelligently and efficiently the various household duties and such other work on the islands as falls within the limit of their abilities.

Domestic science and art for the girls and women, such as cooking, sewing, housekeeping, care of children, etc.; and mechanic arts or manual training for the boys and men, such as carpentry, masonry, metal working, boat building, care of live stock, gardening, etc., are among the subjects which should receive the greatest attention.

It may be possible to train a number of the brighter girls and boys to do a part of the clerical work incident to the administration of the service on the islands, and it is desired that this matter be thoroughly tested.

You will therefore confer with the naturalist, the doctors, teachers, and your other assistants regarding these matters and proceed to carry out these instructions as fully and rapidly as consistent with securing of satisfactory results.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 13, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: It is the desire of the bureau that the meat of the fur seals killed on the islands be utilized to the fullest possible extent.

The principal ways in which it should be utilized are as follows:

1. As food for the inhabitants of the Pribilof Islands.
2. As food for the natives of the Aleutian Islands.
3. As food for foxes.

Careful study should be made of the manner of preserving or preparing the carcasses for each of these purposes. Experiments should be conducted for the purpose of discovering and perfecting the method of preservation which will best fit the meat for each of these purposes. An abundant supply should be saved for fox food.

Consider the desirability of placing a supply of fox food on Otter Island.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 13, 1911.

Mr. WALTER I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Herewith is inclosed copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior in which it is stated that the sum of $200 has been set aside to purchase barrels for use in distributing seal meat among the destitute natives on the Aleutian chain.

You are requested to purchase these barrels and to submit a voucher therefor to the Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, for settlement by check.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 13, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: My attention has been called to what appears to be a practice more or less common on the part of the employees on the Pribilof Islands of sending unofficially or otherwise natural history specimens of various kinds from the islands to different parts of the country. In this way specimens and collections of considerable interest and value have found their way into museums and the hands of private parties, without any authority from the Government, or any knowledge by the bureau regarding the matter. In view of the fact that the Pribilof Islands are a Government reservation, that they and all the animals and plants and other natural products of whatever kind

thereon are Government property, and the further fact that all the people on the islands are either employees or wards of the Government, it may be readily seen that such practice is not consistent with the public interest.

You will, therefore, in the future be governed by the following instructions in matters of this kind:

1. Natural history specimens collected on or about any of the islands of the Pribilof group, and intended for shipment from the islands, will be turned over to the naturalist who will, unless otherwise specifically authorized, forward them to the bureau for official transmission to the museum or party for whom intended.

2. Requests from any source for specimens from the islands should be referred to the bureau.

3. A careful record should be kept by the naturalist of all specimens sent from the islands.

Copies of this letter are furnished for the naturalist, the assistant agents, and others.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
April 14, 1911.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR: I respectfully request that Walter I. Lembkey, agent, fur-seal fisheries, be authorized to travel, as indicated below, by the most direct or usually traveled route, the expense of such travel to be paid from the appropriation "Alaska fisheries service," there being sufficient balance therein in excess of liabilities already incurred for the payment of the expenses involved:

From Washington, D. C., to San Francisco, Cal., and between San Francisco and the Pribilof Islands as duties may require and return to Washington on the completion thereof.

(Charges for excess baggage for personal wearing apparel of agent only will be allowed.)

For the purpose of purchasing at San Francisco supplies for the seal islands and transacting other necessary business in connection therewith.

This travel to begin on April 16, 1911, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Recorded.

R. M. PINDELL, JR.,
Chief Clerk.

Authorized.

BENJ. S. CABLE,
Acting Secretary.

2403—H. Doc. 93, 62-1——75

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 15, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Herewith are four copies of instructions issued to Mr. G. G. Box, which explain themselves. One copy is for each agent. You are instructed to give Mr. Box every assistance and facility possible for the purpose desired.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
April 17, 1911.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR: I respectfully request that Ezra W. Clark, assistant fur-seal agent, be authorized to travel, as indicated below, by the most direct or usually traveled route, the expense of such travel to be paid from the appropriation "Protecting seal and salmon fisheries of Alaska, 1911 and 1912," there being sufficient balance therein in excess of liabilities already incurred for the payment of the expenses involved:

From Washington, D. C., to San Francisco, Cal., and thence to the Pribilof Islands, for the purpose of protecting the seal fisheries in accordance with detailed instructions which will be furnished him through Agent Lembkey.

This travel to begin on April 20, 1911, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

Recorded.
R. M. PINDELL, Jr.,
Chief Clerk.

Authorized.
BENJ. S. CABLE,
Assistant Secretary.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,
April 21, 1911.

MY DEAR COMMISSIONER: I was informed by Dr. Evermann before I left that the bureau had four rooms assigned in the new Federal Building here. I find this morning, upon calling there, that but one room is allotted us. It is a good-sized light room and plenty for the seal islands' service, but it occurred that perhaps you desired more space for other purposes—at least one more room. If so, you might try to get one more by communicating with the Treasury.

The room has no furniture, but this will be furnished by the custodian. I made a requisition to-day for such as I thought we needed and have asked you by wire to have it hurried up.

It will be absolutely essential to have the use of a telephone in buying goods and carrying on the various business connected with getting the ship off with dispatch. It will not cost over $6 a month and can be discontinued after we have finished business here. As time is essential I will go ahead with arrangements to have it installed, and trust that you will approve the action.

Homer Fritch has not been well. He made a proposition to-day that will save over $500 on the charter money and perhaps $1,000. The whaler *Belvedere* will leave soon for the Kodiak whaling grounds after whalebone and oil. She figures to have at least 500 barrels of oil as the result of her summer's work, not to mention what bone she may pick up. Homer has advanced her the coal she will burn.

The *Belvedere* wishes to unload her whale oil at Unalaska to be brought down to San Francisco on a vessel touching at the first-named port. They will guarantee 500 barrels of oil at $1 a barrel and all over that at the same rate. The oil will be consigned to Homer and he will rebate the charter money by the amount of freight earned. As the *Homer* will have no cargo whatever on the first trip down, and only the sealskins on the second trip, she could easily haul this freight without detriment. I trust I may have authority to take the oil if I find the ship will not be delayed thereby.

Homer Fritch asks that his daughter and her husband may go as passengers on the first trip. There will be no native passengers, so far as I know. I strongly recommend that she be allowed to go, as it will cost us nothing, be a favor to Homer, and will result in a considerable increase in the quality of food furnished the passengers.

I understand from Homer Fritch that we can have wireless installed on the *Homer* for $150, first cost, and $75 a month maintenance, including operator. If this price can be confirmed I strongly urge that the plant be installed on the ship. The benefit will be obvious. After we leave the pass should any breakdown occur, the ship with her skins will be at the mercy of the sea unless she be discovered. As she is out of the track of vessels she might drift for months. With wireless, the cutters or any passing vessel could be notified and aid furnished. It would be the best insurance we could procure. I ask you to advise me in the matter.

As rumors have been circulated about the bureau to the effect that the bottom of the *Homer* is rotten, it would be a good move, when she is on dry dock, to have her hull inspected and passed upon by United States inspectors. I do not ask this on my own initiative, as I know she is not rotten, but because statements to that effect have been made to the bureau, and it would be well to have them tested.

Redpath is taking as much interest in the ship as if he were still charged with the duty. He is not at all well, but will, I know, improve with the imminence of a trip to Alaska.

I trust the supply of stationery and the typewriter for which I asked before leaving the bureau may not be delayed. With my kindest personal regards, and my official respects, I am, believe me,

Very truly, yours,

W. I. LEMBKEY.

Hon. GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 2, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
New Federal Building, San Francisco, Cal.

MY DEAR MR. LEMBKEY: Your letter of 21st ultimo has been received and contents noted.

Steps have been taken to secure additional rooms in the New Federal Building. It is noted that the one which has been already assigned to the bureau meets all immediate needs.

The installation of a telephone for use as long as it may be required is authorized. You are also authorized to permit the *Homer* to bring down from Unalaska the barrels of oil, etc., which you mention, and on the terms mentioned. You may say to Mr. Fritch that it has given me pleasure to instruct you to arrange for Mr. Fritch's daughter and her husband to go as passengers on the first trip, and I ask that you do everything in your power to make the trip pleasant for them.

Your suggestion that wireless be installed on the *Homer* is an excellent one. It would serve a very useful purpose and might be of great value in case of difficulties while at sea. While the Government, of course, can not pay for repairs and improvements to property which it does not possess, it will be proper for Mr. Fritch to have the wireless installed, the cost to be adjusted in connection with the rebate for transporting the oil.

Regarding your recommendation that the *Homer* be inspected by the Steamboat-Inspection Service, you are advised that this matter was taken up on the 27th ultimo with the Supervising Inspector General of the Steamboat-Inspection Service, and under date of May 1, 1911, he informs this bureau that the *Homer* was inspected by the United States local inspectors of steam vessels at San Francisco, Cal., on May 14, 1910; that the certificate of inspection issued by the local inspectors at that time covered a period of one year, and that the owners of the *Homer* should, and no doubt will, make application to the local inspectors for the annual inspection of said steamer within the next few weeks. He further states that the local inspectors have been directed to submit a report of their inspection of the steamer *Homer*, both as to the inspection of the machinery and hull, to that office, and upon receipt of said report the same will be forwarded to the Bureau of Fisheries.

I am pleased to know that Mr. Redpath is taking much interest in your work, and I hope that the trip to the islands will result in a complete recovery of his accustomed good health.

Kindly keep me informed as to the progress of the work at San Francisco.

Very respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., April 26, 1911.

COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have respectfully to inclose herewith a copy of the charter of the steamship *Homer*, to cover the season of 1911. I am sending two other copies of the same charter under separate covers.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries, New Customhouse Building,
Room No. 328.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 3, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Room 328, New Customhouse Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Replying to your letter of April 26, the charter of the *Homer* is received and has been recommended to the Secretary for acceptance.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 11, 1911.*

COMMISSIONER FISHERIES, *Washington, D. C.:*

Owing to delay in repairs, *Homer* will be delivered on May 18 instead of 15. Can probably sail May 26. Purchases completed and waiting delivery vessel. Could have sailed 23d had vessel been delivered as per charter.

LEMBKEY.

[Copy—original too faint for reproduction.]

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, May 16, 1911.

LEMBKEY,
San Francisco, Cal.

Your telegram not understood. No storekeeper authorized for St. George. You, Clark, Judge, Chichester, Hahn, and Proctor, besides schoolmasters and physicians available. It appears to me that detail can be arranged from among these persons. Answer.

GEO. M. BOWERS.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
May 18, 1911.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR: I respectfully request that Albert K. Brown be authorized to travel, as indicated below, by the most direct or usually traveled route, the expense of such travel to be paid from the appropriation "Protecting seal and salmon fisheries of Alaska," there being sufficient balance therein in excess of liabilities already incurred for the payment of the expenses involved:

From Washington, D. C., to San Francisco, Cal., and thence to the Pribilof Islands, and on completion of the duty indicated to return to Washington.

Traveling expenses and subsistence, both en route and on islands, allowed.

For the purpose of reporting to W. I. Lembkey, seal agent, and acting as clerk and storekeeper as directed on the Pribilof Islands.

This travel to begin on May 19, 1911, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

Recorded.
R. M. PINDELL, Jr.,
Chief Clerk.

Authorized.
CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 18, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
328 United States Customhouse Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: This office is in receipt of a voucher in favor of the Remington Typewriter Co. amounting to $92, with requisition and one bill attached. When articles are purchased and the items do not appear on the voucher, as in this case, bills must be submitted in triplicate. The certificate on all vouchers should show the method of advertising or form of agreement under which the purchase was made. The voucher as it now stands will be passed in order to avoid further delay.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS, *Commissioner.*

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 18, 1911.*

COMMISSIONER FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.:

Homer delivered to-day, Donaldson master; ship now at bunkers; begin loading merchandise Monday; received your telegram 18th; thanks.

LEMBKEY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., May 22, 1911.

MY DEAR MR. COMMISSIONER: I am mailing under separate cover several vouchers for coal and articles which have been delivered to the *Homer*. The vouchers have all been made out, signed by the persons from whom the goods were purchased and returned to this office, where they are held pending notice from the receiving clerk on the wharf that the goods have been delivered. As soon as this notice is received vouchers will be forwarded to the bureau.

As the terms in some cases are 2 per cent 10 days, in each of which cases I have taken advantage of the discount, although it will be impossible to make the payment in that time, I take the liberty to make the suggestion that Mr. Addison be instructed to push all these vouchers along to payment with as little delay as possible.

With kind regards,

Sincerely, yours,

GEO. G. BOX.

Hon. GEORGE M. BOWERS,
Commissioner of Fisheries, Washington, D. C.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 25, 1911.*

COMMISSIONER FISHERIES, *Washington, D. C.:*

Brown arrived; *Homer* sails Saturday morning.

LEMBKEY.

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *May 27, 1911.*

COMMISSIONER FISHERIES, *Washington, D. C.:*

Homer left for Unalaska this morning; will correspond from islands by wireless whenever possible.

LEMBKEY.

[Telegram.]

ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA, *June 22, 1911.*

COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.:

Homer arrived St. Paul 16th; Chichester and Hahn drowned 31st from exposure following capsizing in sail boat; wives both men rescued after one hour in water, and now well. Both bodies go down on first return *Homer* accompanied by widows. Please ascertain from relatives deceased whether had insurance, and if so have proper companies instruct their agents San Francisco and the steps necessary for identification remains. Also have friends for funds get widows upon their arrival San Francisco; will furnish each widow with certificate death and affidavits witnessed. Figaniero on St. Georges Island physical wreck and leaves first trip on St. Paul. Morgan and Gloidov with family leaves islands on first trip to remain States. Bureau should provide physician and school-teacher St. Paul for second trip. Proctor and Campbell go down to buy goods. Wireless being erected St. Paul by Buffalo in probably two weeks; department can communicate with islands via Nome.

LEMBKEY.

PART II. COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO REVENUE-CUTTER PATROL.

MARCH 10, 1911.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

SIR: I have the honor to request that at least three revenue cutters and, if possible, four cutters be detailed during the coming summer for active patrol duty in Bering Sea about the Pribilof Islands to safeguard the interests of the Government and to prevent infractions of law in that vicinity.

It is believed by this department that the work of systematic patrol should begin not later than June 15 and should continue until all Japanese schooners leave the sea, which may be as late as September 10. Beginning August 1, one vessel should give some attention to the 60-mile zone.

In view of the probability of the necessity of furnishing the agents on the islands with amended instructions, it is desirable that mail be taken to the islands as heretofore at such times as it may arrive at Unalaska. Particularly should a vessel take from Unalaska the October mail, arriving at the latter place near the last of that month. It is desired also that transportation should be furnished to employees of this department and natives of the islands when the same might expedite business or conduce to their welfare. It is deemed advisable that the patrol vessels be instructed to cooperate with the agents on shore to secure the greatest measure of protection to the interests of the Government on the islands and to remove persons landing thereon without proper authority.

Respectfully,

CHARLES NAGEL,
Secretary.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Washington, March 22, 1911.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary, I have the honor to state, in reply to your communication of the 10th instant requesting that at least three revenue cutters be detailed during the coming summer for patrol duty in Bering Sea about the Pribilof Islands, that three vessels, namely, the *Manning*, *Tahoma*, and *Rush*, have been designated by the President to perform this service.

The revenue cutter *Bear*, which is to make the northern cruise, and the *Thetis*, which will be on duty in southeastern Alaska a part of the season, will also perform such duty in connection with the Bering Sea patrol as their other duties will permit.

It is noted in your letter that in the opinion of the Department of Commerce and Labor the systematic patrol should begin not later than June 15 and should continue until all the Japanese schooners leave the sea, which may be as late as September 10, and that beginning August 1 one vessel should give some attention to the 60-mile zone. Instructions will be given the commanding officers of vessels of the patrol fleet to perform the service requested in your communication and to cooperate with the agents on the seal islands with a view to securing the greatest measure of protection to the interests of the Government and to remove persons landing thereon without authority.

It is requested that this Department be supplied with a sufficient number of copies of the "Laws and regulations relative to fur-seal fishing" for distribution to sealing vessels that may be fallen in with during the season. These regulations should be in the possession of this department not later than April 1, as it is expected one of the vessels designated for the patrol duty will leave Astoria, Oreg., for southeastern Alaska by the 10th of April next.

Respectfully,

A. PIATT ANDREW,
Assistant Secretary.

MAY 10, 1911.

The COMMANDING OFFICER, BERING SEA FLEET,
Port Townsend, Wash.

SIR: 1. You are informed that the President has designated the revenue cutters *Tahoma*, *Manning*, *Rush*, and *Thetis* to cruise as far as may be practicable the present season in the north Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, including the waters of Alaska, within the domain of the United States, for the enforcement of the act of Congress approved December 29, 1897, and the Regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration decreed the 15th day of August, 1893, for the preservation of the fur seals.

2. Under the provisions of the act of Congress above referred to, it is unlawful for any citizen or vessel of the United States to engage in pelagic sealing at any time or in any manner in the waters of the Pacific Ocean north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and including the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. You are therefore directed to seize any vessel of the United States found navigating the waters as above indicated, in violation of the law, and send the

same to the nearest or most accessible port of the United States; upon arrival there to be surrendered to the custody of competent authority having jurisdiction.

3. Since, under the enactment by Congress above referred to and given in full in the "Regulations, Fur-Seal Fishing Season of 1910" (copies of which will be sent to you under separate cover), vessels of the United States are prohibited absolutely from engaging in fur-seal fishing within the geographical limits prescribed, it follows that the "Regulations of the Paris Tribunal of Arbitration" (embodied in the regulations above mentioned) are applicable only to British vessels, and that fur-seal fishing is prohibited to subjects of Great Britain at any time or in any manner within a zone of 60 geographic miles around Pribilof Islands, inclusive of territorial waters, and from May 1 to July 31 in that part of the Pacific Ocean inclusive of Bering Sea, situated north of the thirty-fifth degree of north latitude and eastward of the one hundred and eightieth degree of longitude from Greenwich, until it strikes the water boundary described in Article 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia, and following that line up to Bering Straits.

4. You will arrange with the senior British naval officer at Unalaska engaged in carrying out the provisions of the award, for the mutual delivery of vessels of the one country seized by officers of the other.

5. The following instructions in relation to the enforcement of the fur-seal regulations are issued for your guidance:

(*a*) The terms of the award apply only to vessels of the United States and Great Britain. The first duty of the boarding officer is to satisfy himself by an inspection of her documents as to the vessel's nationality. Vessels boarded beyond the legal jurisdiction of the United States and found to be of a nationality not included in the award are not to be searched or detained longer than is necessary to establish the fact.

(*b*) Long chases are not advisable. After a vessel is brought within reach of your guns, if she does not bring to, display the national ensign and open fire. Fire one blank and one solid shot as a warning. If she still neglects to come to the wind, aim to hit, and use the force at your command to compel her to submit to being boarded and searched.

(*c*) A mere cursory or perfunctory search of vessels boarded is strictly forbidden. The search must be made by two commissioned officers, or one commissioned and one petty officer, and the necessary number of men who are required to remain on board, until every part of the vessel where a sealskin or a shotgun or rifle could be concealed has been searched.

(*d*) Boarding officers are required to exercise courtesy and forbearance and avoid all discussions. Offensive remarks or actions by members of the crew or others on board the vessel being searched are under no circumstances to be taken notice of.

(*e*) Should a sealskin be found on board that bears satisfactory evidence of having been shot within the Bering Sea, or killed in any manner within the area of the award in the Pacific Ocean between April 30 and August 1, or within 60 miles of the Pribilof Islands, at any time, the vessel must be seized.

(*f*) Any vessel of Great Britain found within the area of the award during the closed season engaged in fur-seal fishing or fitted

for fur-seal fishing and not being provided with the special sealing license is ordered seized. When any licensed sealing vessel of Great Britain is found within the area of the award during the closed season having on board a seal-hunting outfit, she should be seized only if it be found that she was sealing or contemplating sealing within the area at that time. If the boarding officer finds evidence of the recent use of her boats and sealing outfit, or that they were in readiness for immediate use for taking fur seals, the matter should be closely investigated, and, if the circumstances warrant, she should be seized.

(*g*) Only sailing vessels are permitted to engage in fur-seal fishing during the period of time and in the waters in which fur-seal fishing is allowed. Any vessel propelled in whole or in part by steam or other motive power than sail found so engaged is ordered seized.

(*h*) If a vessel which appears to be a sealing vessel is found within the area during the period of time in which fur-seal fishing is forbidden, you will ascertain whether she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing; whether she was carried there by stress of weather, by a mistake during foggy or thick weather, or is there in the ordinary course of navigation making the best of her way to any place. You must judge whether such vessel has been engaged in fur-seal fishing from the presence of sealskins or bodies of seals on board, or salt, and from other circumstances and indications.

(*i*) If such vessel is found outside of the area of the award and it is evident that she has been engaged in fur-seal fishing within said area and has thus committed an offense, you will seize her. A vessel may violate the law by her boats fur-seal fishing within said area while the vessel herself is outside of said area.

(*j*) When you make a seizure you will at the time thereof draw up a declaration, in writing, stating the conditions on the seized vessel, the date and exact place of seizure, giving latitude and longitude, and any additional data by which exact location may be determined and circumstances showing guilt. Arms or skins found (the cause of seizure) as well as all papers must be examined on board the seized vessel and so marked as to be readily identified by the boarding officers when produced in court or elsewhere. This is important and must not be neglected.

(*k*) The seized vessel will be taken or sent, as soon as practicable, with all persons on board thereof, in charge of a sufficient force to insure delivery, together with witnesses and proofs, and the declaration of the officer making the seizure, if American, to the most convenient port of California, Oregon, Washington, or Alaska and delivered to the officers of the United States court; and if British to Unalaska and there delivered to the senior British naval officer present, or taken to the most convenient port in British Columbia and delivered to the proper authorities of Great Britain, or deliver her to the commanding officer of any British vessel authorized to receive her.

(*l*) A signed and certified list of papers of the seized vessel will be delivered to the master thereof, and duplicate copy transmitted with the declarations.

(*m*) Any British vessel boarded and found not to be subject to seizure will be furnished with a copy of the "Regulations, Fur-Seal Fishing Season of 1910."

(*n*) Each vessel so boarded shall be given a written certificate showing the date and place of examination, the number of fur-seal skins, and the number of bodies of seals on board. A duplicate of said certificate shall be preserved.

6. You will also cause careful attention to be given to the matter of preventing raids on the Pribilof Islands and guard as far as possible the 3-mile territorial limit, and to this end you will cause the agents of these islands to be frequently communicated with in order that the commanding officers of the cutters may avail themselves of any information in the possession of the agents touching the movements of marauding vessels. The agents on the islands have received instructions from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor that the cutters will cooperate with them to remove undesirable persons from the islands. You will arrange to have at least one vessel constantly stationed on patrol duty in the vicinity of the islands.

7. Prior to August 1 the efforts of the vessels should be directed toward preventing raids on the islands. After that date when the Canadians are allowed to begin sealing one of the vessels should share with the British cruiser on patrol the duty of maintaining the 60-mile zone. As the Japanese fleet, however, will probably be most active in August, the patrol of the zone should be subsidiary to the protection of the island.

8. The patrol of the Bering Sea should be continued until you are satisfied that every sealer has left the sea, and before the last cutter of the patrol fleet leaves the sea you will cause one vessel to make a special trip to the islands for the purpose of obtaining for the Government the latest information regarding the conditions thereon. This vessel should deliver at the seal islands all mail matter then at Unalaska, and take away from the islands all mail matter, awaiting, if necessary, for a space of 48 hours for its final preparation.

Respectfully,

FRANKLIN MACVEAGH,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

I concur in the above instructions.

CHARLES NAGEL, *Secretary.*

PART III. SPECIAL REPORTS—REPORT OF HAROLD W. HEATH.

FEBRUARY 1, 1911.

HAROLD HEATH,
Stanford University, California:

Your fur-seal report investigations nineteen ten is urgently needed. When can you send it?

———— ————,
Acting Commissioner.

[Telegram.]

PALO ALTO, CAL., *February 1, 1911.*

COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.:

Seal report sent Thursday.

H. HEATH.

10 P. M.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE ALASKA FUR-SEAL ROOKERIES, 1910.[1]

Under the act of Congress of April 21, 1910, embodying various changes in the administration of the Pribilof Islands and the seal fisheries, and providing for the appointment of additional officers and employees, it was decided that a naturalist should be designated to study and report upon the condition of the seal herd. Pending the selection of a permanent occupant of this position, to take effect July 1 under the law, the writer was sent to the islands as a special investigator to perform the naturalist's duties for the season which was already beginning. Observations were made on St. Paul Island, beginning June 29, the date of arrival on the island, and continuing until July 15, then for a week on St. George Island, and again on St. Paul until August 29. A report of these observations is contained in the following pages.

I am indebted to the Government agents on the islands and to the officers of the revenue fleet for valuable data and many courtesies in connection with my work.

BRIEF SKETCH OF NATURAL HISTORY OF THE SEAL.

As popularly applied the term "seal" includes a fairly large group of aquatic mammals, such as the sea lion and the fur and hair seals, all of which bear a superficial resemblance to each other. Strictly speaking, the last named are the only ones deserving of the name. Unlike the hair seal, the fur seal, or sea bear, is able to progress readily on land, is able to hold its head erect, and its fore limbs, finlike in form, are used in swimming. Concerning its life at sea, we know that the seals of the Pribilof Islands spend their winter months along the western coast of North America, the adult females extending their migrations as far as southern California. Early in May the adult males or bulls begin to appear on the rookeries, where each is subsequently joined by 30 females on the average, the height of the breeding season occurring about the 15th of July. Shortly after her arrival each cow gives birth to a pup, and after a sojourn of perhaps two weeks, during which time she is served by the bull, she puts out to sea on the first of several journeys in search of food.

During this time the young males or bachelors are arriving, and are usually found in groups on the outskirts of the rookeries. It is from these young males that the land catch of skins is made.

Early in August disorganization of the harems commences. The greater number of cows have been served, the active bulls accord-

[1] NOTE.—Uncorrected page proof; subject to verification.

ingly relax their vigilance, the idle bulls and those less mature wander about without serious molestation, the pups congregate at various points on shore or in the shallows, where they learn to swim, and as autumn advances the roving instinct becomes more and more apparent in all classes, finally leading to the abandonment of the shore early in November.

THE ROOKERIES.

In position and extent the rookeries have undergone but few changes since last year. The number of active bulls and the attendant harems have decreased slightly, but whether this indicates an actual decrease in the number of cows is doubtful, since the count of pups, as noted in a succeeding section, was made on one rookery only and the data derived therefrom are not perfectly trustworthy. The decline in the number of harems on St. Paul is most apparent on Gorbatch, the Zapadnis, and Tolstoi, where there are 55 less than in 1909. On the other hand there are 47 more on the Reef, Kitovi, Polovina, and Vostochni. On St. George the very slight increase noted on Staraya Artel and Zapadni is almost exactly counterbalanced by a decline on the North and East rookeries.

This year the fleet operated chiefly about Northeast Point and to the south and east between St. Paul and St. George, but the results of their operations do not appear to be so distinctly reflected in a corresponding decline of adjacent rookeries as in 1909. Such a definite effect requires that the seals put out to sea along radii centering in either one of the islands, but on numerous occasions I have watched cows, and especially bachelors, leaving the rookeries, and their course is far from being either direct or uniform. The problem, however, is of interest chiefly to the naturalist as matters rest at present, and is without any very practical bearing on the conservation of the herd.

ROOKERY DEVELOPMENT.

At present there appear to be no very definite problems associated with the development of the rookery, but following the custom observed for several years past counts of harems and cows were made whenever and wherever it was possible. Kitovi especially received attention and as far as practicable was examined at intervals of three days with the following results:

Development of Kitovi rookery, season of 1910, as shown by counts of seals on different dates.

Dates.	Harems.	Cows.	Reserve bulls.	Half bulls.
June 30	16	27	37	6
July 2	32	107	24	14
July 6	43	326	19	7
July 9	47	500	14	10
July 13	62	929	9	10

The past winter was unusually severe and long continued, delaying the breaking up of the drift ice, the melting of the snow, and the appearance of flowering plants for upward of three weeks. It is interesting to note, however, that this delay did not affect the sum-

mer resident birds, which put in an appearance at the customary time, though compelled in numerous instances to deposit their eggs on the snow. Nor did it hinder the migration of the seals, though several cows likewise took up positions on snow drifts, where they and the pups appeared to be unmindful of their unusual habitat.

HAREM COUNTS.

In accordance with the custom pursued in past years, the counts of harems were made as nearly as possible at the "height of the season," occurring July 12–16. Owing to stress of weather Sivutch, or Sea Lion Rock, rookery was not counted, but was estimated as containing 61 harems, the number found last season.

Summary of harem counts, 1910, and comparison with 1897 and 1909.[1]

Rookery.	1897	1909	1910	Rookery.	1897	1909	1910
St. Paul Island:				St. George Island:			
Gorbatch	308	120	112	Little East	46	4	4
Ardiguen	33	11	11	East	128	65	59
Reef	454	184	206	Zapadni	133	43	47
Sea Lion Rock	102	61	61	Staraya Artel	57	42	48
Kitovi	179	55	62	North	196	106	103
Lukanin	139	39	41				
Polavina	143	42	50	Total	560	260	261
Polavina Cliffs	61	23	20				
Little Polavina	40	19	12	Grand total	4,418	1,387	1,381
Morjovi	233	45	47				
Vostochni	910	184	204				
Zapadni	458	147	118				
Little Zapadni	176	62	54				
Zapadni Reef	114	11	7				
Tolstoi	295	87	77				
Tolstoi Cliffs	98	25	29				
Lagoon	115	12	9				
Total	3,858	1,127	1,120				
Sea Lion Rock	.....	61	61				
	.....	1,066	1,059				

[1] Figures for 1909 are Mr. George A. Clark's.

Assuming that Sea Lion Rock is occupied by the same number of harems as in 1909 or neglecting it for both seasons, there are six fewer harems on St. Paul this year than last.

Comparing the number of harems on St. George during the years 1909 and 1910 there is one more, and when both islands are considered five fewer. As there is one bull to a harem this is another way only of stating that there are five fewer bulls this year than last; and obviously such an estimate affords no indication whatever of the actual number of breeding cows.

ACTIVE BULLS.

The number of active bulls, each in control of a harem, is as just noted, somewhat smaller this year than last (as 1,387 to 1,381); but it is the universal verdict that as a class they have lost none of those characteristics that make them successful masters. As usual there was considerable skirmishing among them as the harems were forming, but the wounds inflicted were comparatively insignificant and no deaths were recorded. Early in the season one dead female was found on Gorbatch whose wounds may have been caused by a bull,

and later six cows were seen on various rookeries that had been severely, though not fatally, slashed.

In a few cases young bulls or "quitters" were found with harems on various rookeries, but usually they held sway on the outskirts of the community and joined the females in the mad rush to the sea whenever they were approached. It was the rare exception that they held a position in the more crowded portions of the rookery, and therefore were called upon to defend their cows against the attempted inroads on the part of more seasoned harem masters.

By some authorities it has been urged that this infusion of young male life into the general herd is beneficial, but in all probability its value is overestimated. It is not disclaimed that some animals are born with more vigorous constitutions than others, and that in all probability their offspring will be more hardy in consequence. And furthermore, it is a truism that in the struggle for existence it is a gain that the feeble are weeded out; but this is an entirely different question from the one relating to the effects of age. In the case of the female a long existence may lessen the production of milk or alter its composition, and consequently inhibit the proper nourishment of the offspring, but with the male no such argument may be brought forward. In the case of the race horse, which has been studied as much as any other mammal, attempts have been made to show that it is desirable to breed young males, and again, with essentially the same data, such a position has been attacked. To-day we know far less about the seal, but at present it is a safe proposition to argue in favor of perpetuating, as far as possible, those fully developed males that are able to protect their harems.

IDLE BULLS.

These animals are victims of circumstances. Owing usually to an unfavorable location, they have failed to secure harems, though they are as physically able to control them as any of their class. Furthermore, the term "idle" is a misnomer, for no one who has watched them on the rookeries would ever accuse them of being sluggish. On the other hand, they are aggressive in the extreme, and especially during the height of the season engage in frequent quarrels with the harem masters, from whom they usually pilfer a small number of cows before the close of the season.

It can not well be doubted that an excess of this class of animals is more or less of a menace to the normal, or at all events what appears to be the most successful, type of seal existence. Claims have been made to the effect that for untold ages the seal has fought the battle of life successfully and that in the present time the hand of man is not required to control his destinies. The first part of this statement is undeniably correct, but the last is open to criticism, for it assumes that the seal is to-day leading a normal existence. Unfortunately this is not true, for we know that the number of breeding cows is becoming alarmingly reduced. In the open Pacific the number of captured males and females may be approximately equal, but the Bering Sea catch, as past records show, contains from 70 to 80 per cent of females. Since, on the average, there is 1 male to every 30 cows in the harem, there must inevitably result an excess of males,

an unnatural state of affairs, and the belief that in cutting down this excess we are conferring a benefit appears to rest on a firm foundation.

This season the number of idle bulls was 219, not so great a number but that they are kept at bay until the disintegration of the harems had commenced, when they usually became the possessors of a small number of cows.

YOUNG BULLS.

Young bulls, otherwise known as "quitters" on the islands, are usually 6 or 7 years old, and at the approach of man retire. They frequently haul out with the bachelors or form a shifting fringe about the group of breeding seals. In rare cases they controlled harems, usually on the margins of the rookeries, and in a few cases were seen in the act of copulation.

An accurate count of these animals was not made, unfortunately, since a considerable number had hauled out with the bachelors and could not be numbered without interfering with subsequent drives. At the height of the season the number on the rookeries was 178, and at various times 386 in all were included in the drives. Some were doubtless driven more than once, but it seems certain that the actual number was at least 200, giving a total of 378. As the age of the male is 13 years, of which 5 are spent as harem master, the decrease annually of the present active list is 283. It is apparent, therefore, that killing in the past has not been too close and that there is a sufficient reserve at the present time.

COUNTS OF IDLE AND YOUNG BULLS.

The following counts of idle and young bulls was made at the time the census of harems was taken. It was not possible, without causing undue disturbance, to enumerate members of the latter class that had hauled out with the bachelors on four important rookeries—Northeast Point, Gorbatch, the Reef, and Tolstoi.

Counts of idle and young bulls on St. Paul and St. George Islands, 1910.

Rookeries.	Idle bulls.	Young bulls.	Rookeries.	Idle bulls.	Young bulls.
St. Paul Island:			St. Paul Island—Continued.		
Gorbatch	12	15	Tolstoi Cliffs	5	1
Ardiguen	1	.....	Lagoon	3	.....
Reef	28	17			
Kitovi	9	9	Total	142	131
Lukanin	4	8			
Polovina	5	12	St. George Island:		
Polovina Cliffs	5	5	East	20	.....
Little Polovina	2	7	Zapadni	19	16
Morjovi	1	4	Staraya Artel	17	21
Vostochni	29	26	North	21	10
Zapadni	22	13			
Little Zapadni	9	7	Total	77	47
Zapadni Reef	.....	3			
Tolstoi	7	4	Grand total	219	178

BREEDING COWS.

While there is a steady increase in the number of cows hauling out on any rookery for a month after the middle of June, a seagoing stream soon makes its appearance, consisting of cows en route to the feeding grounds after their pups are born. Hence at the "height of the season," about the middle of July, the number of cows on the beach is no true indication of the total number, nor does it always bear a constant ratio to the whole. Under certain circumstances, possibly due to climatic conditions, nearly the full complement may be present at the height of the season, and again in other years not over 30 per cent of the community may be on the rookery. It thus becomes apparent that such counts, of varying character from season to season, must be used with extreme caution, if at all, in estimating the entire number of females on any rookery or the annual decline or increase. As has been pointed out by others, we may arrive at an approximate estimate only by a count of the pups, and under that heading an attempt has been made to show that even here we must use the results with the greatest care in making a census of the herd.

During the height of the season counts were made on the following rookeries:

Counts of cows on some St. Paul rookeries during height of season, 1897, 1909, and 1910.

Rookeries.	1897	1909	1910
Lagoon	1,319	281	229
Tolstoi Cliffs	1,286	698	646
Zapadni Reef	1,049	137	78
Ardiguen	470	207	218
Kitovi	2,436	892	837
Kitovi Amphitheater	654	127	92
Lukanin			820
Polovina Cliffs			426
Little Polovina			421
	7,711	2,413	3,767

COUNTS OF PUPS.

Owing to the fact that all the cows are never present on the rookeries at a given time, it is obvious that the only approach to an accurate census of the breeding females is to be made by counting all the pups on all the rookeries. Such a procedure is not only arduous but wasteful, since the cows in early August, when the counting is usually done, are readily driven into the sea and a portion must inevitably fall a prey to the pelagic sealer. Accordingly it was the custom for several years prior to 1906 to count the pups on a number of rookeries, and with such data estimate the entire herd. In more recent times the number of such pup counts has become gradually lessened until this year Kitovi was the only rookery examined, with the following result: Total number of pups, 1,966; dead, 62.

The implication that Kitovi is a typical average rookery must rest upon the assumption that it stands between those in which the decline is great and those in which it is at a minimum. As a matter of fact, an examination of the counts of Kitovi during the past four years shows that in reality it has been remarkably constant so far as the cows are

concerned. Commencing with 1907, the number of pups each year is 1,959, 1,960, 1,979, and this year there are 1,966.

Last year there were 55 active bulls on Kitovi and 1,979 pups; this year there are 62 bulls and 1,966 pups. The average harem last year was 36; this year, 31.7; a difference due almost wholly to the increased number of active bulls. And, furthermore, this slight difference is of far-reaching importance when we come to consider the application of these data to the estimate of the entire herd. With 1,369 harems, each numbering 36 cows, the estimate would be 49,284; if each comprised 31.7 cows there are then 43,397 in the breeding herd, a difference of 5,587, or 11,174 when the pups are included in the count, due solely to the presence of 7 active extra bulls.

Then, again, on the other rookeries an increase or decrease in the number of active males produces a corresponding rise or fall in the estimated number of cows. For example, on Vostochni there may be 6,500 cows and 200 active bulls. If 20 idle bulls, before the height of the season, secure 1 cow apiece, they enter the active list, and there are then 220 harems. As the average harem is 31.7, this increase affects the estimate to the extent of a gain of 634 cows, though in reality the number of cows has remained constant. At present this gain or loss in the active bull list outside of Kitovi is of relative unimportance, but it is conceivable that under certain circumstances it may assume a more prominent rôle.

I have in mind the fact that in treating this phase of the problem we are, after all, dealing in generalities, but the results may become so general that they have little actual value. In my opinion it is highly desirable that a pup count on all of the rookeries be made during August, or even early in September, in stress of weather, or possibly after the sealing fleet has left Bering Sea; and again a similar survey should be made five years later, when the typical rookery could be determined and questions relating to the increase or decrease of the herd be settled beyond a reasonable doubt.

ESTIMATES OF COWS AND PUPS.

Assuming that the average harem comprises 31.7 cows, the total number in the entire seal herd is computed in the following table:

Computation of cows and pups on St. Paul and St. George Islands, 1897, 1909, and 1910.

Rookeries.	1897	1909	1910	Rookeries.	1897	1909	1910
St. Paul Island:				St. Paul Island—Contd.			
Gorbatch	9,086	4,320	3,487	Tolstoi Cliffs	2,891	1,452	888
Ardiguen	736	353	349	Lagoon	2,598	693	285
Reef	13,393	6,624	6,530	Total	112,864	41,266	35,188
Sea Lion Rock	3,009	2,196	[1] 1,934				
Kitovi	5,289	1,979	1,966				
Lukanin	4,100	1,404	1,268	St. George Island:			
Polavina	4,218	1,512	1,585	Little East	1,190	144	127
Polavina Cliffs	2,200	828	634	East	3,766	2,340	1,870
Little Polavina	1,180	684	380	Zapadni	3,923	1,548	1,490
Morjovi	6,873	1,620	1,490	Staraya Artel	1,681	1,512	1,522
Zapadni	13,511	5,292	3,740	North	5,782	3,816	3,202
Vostochni	26,845	6,624	6,467				
Little Zapadni	5,192	2,232	1,617	Total	16,352	9,360	8,211
Zapadni Reef	2,200	319	222				
Tolstoi	8,702	3,132	2,346	Grand total	129,216	50,626	43,777

[1] Estimated.

In the above census it is to be remembered that the totals apply to cows or pups and that both together number 86,798.

YEARLINGS AND 2-YEAR-OLDS.

Of the various computations necessary to arrive at an estimate of the entire seal herd those concerned with the 2-year-olds and yearlings are the least satisfactory. And yet by restricting the quota to 3-year-olds we could in a relatively short period arrive at a fairly close approximation, and at the same time settle other vexed questions that are in need of solution. At the present time we are compelled to base our estimates largely on the quota and those males dismissed from the killing grounds.

In the quota this year 10,210 skins weighed less than 7 pounds, and 2,603 males were dismissed from the drives because they were undersized. Some of the latter were doubtless driven more than once, but even so it is probable that the number was not less than 1,800. Besides these, 337 2-year-olds were branded early in the season. This accounts for 12,347. That there are yet others is evidenced by the fact that fully 700 bachelors of killable size appeared on the hauling grounds of both islands in early August after the killing season, in addition to which there were probably other young animals in considerable numbers, though how many is uncertain. And it is probable, also, that some were at sea, but here again we have no exact information. A conservative estimate of 2-year-olds is therefore 13,000, which is also the number of virgin 2-year-old females that during the late summer arrived at the rookeries.

It appears to be the general belief that in 1909 there were 12,000 yearlings of each sex, and judging from estimates based on pup counts and the quota, the herd appears to have been stationary for the past three or four years. Hence we might suppose that the number of yearlings for this year is approximately the same as last. However, it is possible that the estimates based largely on Kitovi are misleading and that the quota was maintained by closer and closer killing. Future observations alone will settle this question. In order to be on the safe side we may assume that a shrinkage of 10 per cent has taken place and that accordingly the number of yearlings of each sex for the year 1910 is 10,800.

THE RESERVE.

For six years prior to 1910 two thousand 2 and 3 year old males were reserved annually, but as the brand, made by clipping the hair on the head, was not permanent we have no means of knowing how many of these were subsequently killed. If 1,000 were actually exempted each year and there is an annual mortality of 10 per cent there should be between 500 and 600 this year remaining of the reserve of 1905. And if the decline of the present number of active bulls is approximately 300 there should this year be an increase of over 200. As a matter of fact there is a slight decline, so that it appears that males exempted one year were killed the next. In reality, if we may judge from the records of past years, there is no necessity of reserving annually a number greater than one-half of the total number of active bulls, but these should be chosen from the class that will be wigged next year, or branded with a permanent mark.

This year 1,271 males were set aside as a reserve; very nearly 1,000 4-year-olds and older were dismissed from the drives, and as some of these were doubtless driven more than once it is assuredly safe to conclude that 600 were actually present. In addition there were others on the water front and in the water to the number of at least 100, and finally there were 397 idle and half bulls. This gives a total of 2,368, a number considerably in excess of the requirements.

ESTIMATE OF ALL CLASSES.

The following is an itemized census of all of the seals forming the herd in 1910:

Census of seal herd in 1897, 1909, and 1910.

Classes.	1897	1909	1910
Active bulls	4,418	1,387	1,369
Breeding cows	129,216	50,626	43,399
Pups	129,216	50,626	43,399
Idle bulls	5,000	189	219
Young bulls	10,000	324	178
Bachelor reserve	2,000	4,114	2,368
2-year males	20,000	14,368	[1] 13,000
2-year females	20,000	15,000	13,000
Yearling males	30,000	12,000	10,800
Yearling females	30,000	12,000	10,800
Total	402,850	156,520	138,532

[1] Of the 13,000 2-year-old males in the herd at the beginning of the season of 1910 about 7,500 in round numbers were subsequently killed on land for their skins, reducing the total of 138,532 to practical agreement with the total shown by the agent in charge, Mr. W. I. Lembkey, in his report, which applies to the end of the season.

The figures for 1909 are those of Mr. George A. Clark, special representative of the Bureau of Fisheries on the islands that year. The varying categories to which different authorities assign the seals, the different dates when counts were made, and the difference in bases of estimating from such counts, are illustrated in this instance and appear in all comparisons of figures. Even the harem counts do not exactly agree. Mr. Clark's classification and enumeration are, for these reasons, not fully comparable with the report of Mr. Lembkey for 1909.

It will be noticed that according to this estimate the herd has diminished by 17,688. Whether this is a just conclusion must be decided by computations to be made during the next few years. Accuracy is impossible so long as the present methods are employed. During late years it has been assumed that the error is not greater than 12 per cent, and this is probably a fair conclusion. Last year the herd numbered between 150,000 and 160,000; this year it seems to fall between 135,000 and 145,000.

THE QUOTA.

In 1897 it was estimated that the ratio of bachelors to the entire herd was 1:20; this year it is approximately 1:10. The conditions that have brought about this change are matters largely of conjecture, for our knowledge of the seal is too imperfect to warrant a satisfactory explanation. It is reasonably certain that the mortality among pups is less than formerly and, as Mr. Lembkey states in his report of 1909, this would insure a proportionately larger return of yearlings, males and females, and subsequently of breeding cows, both of which are factors tending to the increase of bachelors. Then, again, the death rate of the young, estimated to be 50 per cent during the first year, may have been excessive and the proportion of bachelors to the entire herd may have been greater than was estimated in 1897.

But even if these problems were solved to our complete satisfaction they do not bear directly on the question of the conservation of the herd. As noted in another paragraph, the essential point to be settled is regarding the reserve. If it is sufficient to supply the requisite number of males, as the active ones disappear, then it appears to be the best policy to kill those remaining. The herd is declining or at best stationary. The pelagic sealer is hovering about the islands and close killing diminishes his catch. That the quota should consist of the skins of 3-year-olds is obviously the most economical plan, but from a purely zoological standpoint this is a matter of detail and relatively unimportant.

This year 10,749 skins were taken on St. Paul and 2,834 on St. George, a total of 13,583, or 785 less than in 1909. The weights of these, together with data relating to the drives and numbers dismissed, are given in the report of the agent in charge.

CONSERVATION AND SOME INVOLVED PROBLEMS.

It has been seen from the foregoing paragraphs that the number of males for breeding purposes is sufficient, and this has been so for many years. On the other hand, the number of females has been decreasing steadily, and there is no question but that the pelagic sealer is, and has been, an important factor in producing this decline. Furthermore, another fact is evident, that with the conservation of the females on land and the setting aside annually of a sufficient male reserve no additional care will add one jot or tittle to the number of cows. It is perfectly true that the elements involved in the problem of the male reserve are intricate and some are not clearly understood, but in the last analysis the important question to be answered is this: Is there a sufficient number of males to take the place of those active on the rookeries? and every year the answer has been in the affirmative. On land, killing may be close, and skins below the maximum value may be taken, but if the females are protected and the male reserve be adequate other questions sink into a position of relative unimportance as the seal problem now presents itself.

The foregoing paragraph is written from a purely biological standpoint, having in mind only the conservation of the herd, but there are other questions of a more practical bearing that should be settled before the sealing business can be conducted on the most economical basis In the first place it is highly desirable that the number of pups born annually be more accurately determined, reducing the possible error below 7,000, where it stands at present. In 1896 the error was estimated to be about 6 per cent, but last year and this it is probably twice as great. With the herd approaching the vanishing point accuracy is more than ever a desideratum and should be had even at the cost of an unusual amount of labor.

Again, we have no information, within narrow limits, of the number of males or females returning at the close of the first year, or if this be beyond computation, then of the number returning the second or even the third year. This, as the sexes are of approximately equal numbers, will give more nearly than any other practicable method the number of females taking their places on the rookeries. Beyond this time observations should be made to determine the number of reserved 3-year-olds that appear the next year, and finally the

percentage that ultimately becomes active on the rookeries. From such observations the reserve of males may ultimately be made with an accurate knowledge of facts, and not with such hazy ideas as we have at present.

It is highly desirable that the quota be taken from the males in prime condition, and I heartily agree with Mr. Lembkey and Mr. G. A. Clark, who argue in their reports of 1909 for the killing of 3-year-olds. I am by no means convinced that even by the branding of every pup, and so destroying the fur to some extent, we can, by this means alone, reduce the value of the skin to such a degree that the pelagic sealer will be forced out of business. It may indeed be a fact, but the brands made in the past were in some cases fatal and are supposedly about all that the young seal is able to survive, and yet not over one-tenth or at most one-eighth of the fur is destroyed. The resulting depreciation of value will probably not amount to more than $10, and two San Francisco furriers place it as low as $5. The price of skins is gradually advancing and on the other hand we do not know what returns will pay the schooner owners to keep a ship in the sea. The crew, averaging 35, receives $5 per man each month (Capt. Quinan of the revenue cutter *Tahoma* says $2.50) and 12½ cents goes to each man for every skin taken by his particular rowboat. Let us suppose each schooner is out six months, and, judging from past records, 8,000 skins will be taken this year, or 320 per schooner. If the price per skin were only $15 ($30 was the price they received last year) $4,800 would certainly be a paying investment.

On the other hand there is another factor making toward the reduction of the sealing fleet which, together with the partial destruction of the skins through branding, may possibly put the pelagic sealer out of business or, more probably, so limit the number of vessels that an equilibrium of the seal herd may become a fixed feature. This element is competition. With 25 schooners in the sea, rivalry must this year have been very keen, and with a diminishing herd some competitors must sooner or later leave the field. Any depreciation in the value of skins must hasten the desirable result, provided—and here an unknown factor enters—that the price of skins does not advance. But with the decline of the number of skins it is probable that prices will advance, and it appears very questionable whether branding and competition will drive away all of the pelagic fleet for many years to come. It may, however, make it possible for the herd to remain practically stationary until some form of treaty insures more perfect conservation.

The branding process may be made to include the male pups, but as the pelagic sealer secures but few bachelors this would greatly destroy the value of the land catch without giving adequate returns. It is possible that the males dismissed from the drives might be penned up for a month or so, but unfortunately I can not speak with authority regarding this plan, that was once put into execution several years ago. Some advocates claim that it is entirely possible; that after a few days the captives show no sign of restlessness in their unnatural surroundings. Others are equally certain that the experiment was not a success, as several of the larger animals broke through the barriers and some less fortunate became restless in the extreme and finally died of exhaustion. Furthermore, it is reported the

bachelors ordinarily put to sea from time to time in search of food, and it is difficult to see how food would be forthcoming even if they desisted from their attempts to escape. The fact that placing animals in captivity would prevent redriving does not appear in itself to be sufficient reason for carrying out the plan. If by these schemes we hope to drive the pelagic sealer from his elected calling, then it seems to me they will not succeed, but that they may increase the value of the land catch is possible.

THE QUESTION OF AN EQUILIBRIUM OF THE HERD.

The question of an equilibrium of the herd is one of very high importance. In 1897 the Fur Seal Commission agreed that such a state of affairs would ultimately occur, and in 1909 Mr. G. A. Clark argues in favor of the possibility that there is now an equilibrium. Unfortunately, in the present year a sufficiently large pup count was not made whereby to settle the question. The estimated decline may be approximately correct or it may be due to the methods of taking the census. If an equilibrium does exist, it means that if the number of guards stationed on the islands is sufficient to prevent poaching the entire land catch may amount annually to something in the neighborhood of 10,000 skins and the herd would be in no danger of extinction. If instead of allowing matters to rest as they are the Government orders the branding of female pups, then some of the pelagic sealers may be compelled to abandon their calling, and the herd would probably increase, but there is nothing to prevent the return of the entire sealing fleet when the herd is larger and a profitable catch may be made even though each skin is much reduced in value.

As matters appear there is one way only whereby the pelagic sealer may be driven away entirely, and that is by the further reduction of the seal herd. This is at best a cold-blooded proposition and will probably not meet with general approval, but there seems to be no other way to destroy the activity of the fleet.

The question now stands, Shall the pelagic sealer be driven from the sea and the financial gain from the then highly diminished herd be reduced to a minimum, or is it better policy to place the business more nearly on a paying basis though the pelagic sealer share in the returns? Until pelagic sealing is discontinued by an agreement with the countries concerned the revenue fleet must be kept about the islands, under any circumstances the natives must be cared for, and in various ways a heavy financial outlay must be made annually. Personally I favor the latter plan, reaping as large a harvest as is compatible with the conservation of the herd and at the same time leaving as little as possible to those on the high seas.

THE PATROL AND PELAGIC SEALING.

The revenue fleet maintained throughout the season of 1910 a most thoroughgoing and careful patrol about the islands, where reefs, and shifty currents, and impenetrable fogs are of the most treacherous character. Three cutters, the *Tahoma*, Capt. Quinan, commanding; the *Manning*, Capt. Cárdin; and the *Perry*, Capt. Haake, constituted the fleet, with Capt. Foley at Unalaska in command. Prior to July 26 each vessel remained 12 days in the vicinity of St. Paul, and after

5 days returned from coaling at Unalaska. On the date named the *Perry*, during a dense fog, went ashore at Rocky Point on St. Paul and was never floated. The duties of the remaining vessels became correspondingly increased, but so far as known no schooner pushed inside of the 3-mile zone after this accident, and generally speaking the infractions of the law throughout the season were of minor importance.

Pelagic sealing, on the part of the Japanese, continued with unabated vigor. During this season 25 vessels were reported, 7 more than in 1909, and the reports in Capt. Foley's office in Unalaska show that each schooner carried approximately 25 to 40 men and from 5 to 10 boats. Furthermore, several of these ships cleared from Japan early in the year, and, arriving at various points from California to Sitka, followed the herd to the breeding grounds in Bering Sea. In the vicinity of St. Paul Island none ventured, so far as known, within the 3-mile zone, but in one or two instances violations were reported by the natives on St. George, where the revenue-cutter patrol is far less vigilant. On June 28 the *Tokai Maru* was seized and fined for violation of the alien fishing law, and on July 25 the *Toro Maru* was seized and fined for violation of the custom laws (sec. 2773 of the Revised Statutes). On July 18 two rowboats were sighted in the vicinity of Zapadni, on St. George, so close to shore that one was seen to contain at least one unskinned seal. And again during foggy weather on July 30 two boats' crews from the schooner *Hoko Maru* landed at Northeast Point and Lukanin, respectively, and the next day four sailors from the *Toro Maru* were captured en route to Zapadni. Though pleading stress of weather, all were taken into custody and were subsequently tried in Unalaska.

Generally speaking, the fleet operated to the east and north of St. Paul, presumably in the path of the seals leaving the Reef, Kitovi, Lukanin, the Polovinas, and Northeast Point. On July 10 the steamer *Homer* reported at least a dozen schooners with their attendant boats, which had formed a great circle between St. Paul and St. George and were slaughtering the seals compelled to cross the line of fire at two points. Although the nearest of these vessels was at least 8 miles from the shores of St. Paul, the reports of the shotguns could heard distinctly on land, and a count I made on that day from 11.20 to 11.50 a. m. showed that 228 shots were fired, an average of 7.6 per minute.

In this connection it may be mentioned that on certain days, owing to meteorological conditions, sounds travel amazing distances. According to Capt. Quinan, shots were heard one day in July seemingly well within the 3-mile zone, but with the lifting of the fog the nearest boat was fully 7 miles distant. Somewhat later in the month a fusilade was distinctly heard on St. Paul, but with the clearing away of the mists not a single boat could be detected even with powerful glasses used from the top of a 70-foot hill. It thus becomes apparent that alleged transgressions, based on this species of evidence alone, are far from being trustworthy.

To an outsider the practice of having Japanese stewards aboard the cutters is not above criticism. They must inevitably come into possession of valuable information that may be of service to Japanese prisoners, for whom they act as interpreters, if I am informed correctly. Furthermore, the Japanese detained for 10 days on St. Paul this year were in constant communication with the natives of the

village, and it was no fault of theirs if they did not learn more of the islands than is disclosed by the chart. One has a certain amount of sympathy for the pelagic sealer, who receives a mere pittance for his services and is the only one who suffers when his boat is captured; but his imprisonment is not a serious hardship, especially if he be allowed to work on the coal pile at $2 per day and is ultimately sent back to Japan.

These are, after all, matters of comparative unimportance. The arrest, and even the severe punishment, of such offenders do not seriously interfere with the activities of the schooners and their owners. Such devices as branding to partially destroy the value of the skins, and of penning up male seals released from the drives, are not complete preventives, so that until an agreement is consummated the international struggle between watcher and watched must forever go on with all of the attendant aggravating features. It is possible that the herd is not in a state of equilibrium, but is actually diminishing. If this continue the hunter on the high seas must ultimately vanish from the scene of his pernicious activity; but is the Government of the United States compelled to place the seal herd on the altar of sacrifice in order to bring about this desired result?

If this, indeed, be true then we must decide, and that right early, whether this be a lesser evil than the other, hypothetical to a certain degree, of branding the females, which form the greater portion of the pelagic catch, and by the depreciation of their skins, making it necessary for a greater number than at present to be taken with profit by the pelagic sealer. At the same time this would render it possible for an increased number of cows to escape and breed on the rookeries, and so add materially to the bachelor herd and consequently to the land catch.

THE PELAGIC CATCH.

Regarding the pelagic catch of this year, our evidence must rest upon a very slender reed—the reports of the Japanese themselves. According to these, 4,213 skins were taken prior to August 15, of which 2,098 came from Bering Sea. Last year the reported Japanese catch up to August 15 was 4,954 skins. As a matter of fact, it was then probably twice as large, for the entire season's catch, as reported from the London market, was 10,561 skins. This year it is safe to predict that there will be at least 8,000.

COWS IN DRIVES.

During the killing season proper, closing August 1, the discipline maintained by the active bulls on the rookeries was very strict, and accordingly a very insignificant number of cows made their way into the neighborhood of the bachelors and were driven to the sealing grounds. Such as did so, of course, were subsequently released. During a food drive on August 10, when the harems had commenced to disintegrate, several cows appeared in the drive, but I was unable to find a single one among the dead on the killing grounds. Doubtless females may occasionally be clubbed accidentally, but this year I can testify that the greatest care was exercised, and I know of no occurrences of the kind.

FEEDING OF PUPS.

For various reasons, no attempt was made to raise pups. The pair handled successfully by Boatswain Thurber had shed the first coat and were fully 3 months old; he was unsuccessful with the young, black pups. These last named may possibly be reared if food of the proper character be fed, but at the present time we are ignorant of the composition of seal's milk. In any event one must have not only a large store of patience but an abundance of time, and whatever may be said regarding the first requisite the latter is not forthcoming during the summer, when one is concerned with numerous other matters pertaining to the herd in general and must leave the islands in August.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Under normal circumstances the life of the seal of either sex is probably from 12 to 13 years. Since the bulls are active for not more than five seasons, one-fifth of the active list dies each year, and as the cows are believed to breed during ten seasons one-tenth of their number disappears annually.

Judging from the reports of former years, the season of 1910 was one of comparative quiet. No fatalities due to fighting were noted among the bulls, and only one cow was discovered whose death may be attributed to rough handling on the part of a bull.

On the killing grounds between 20 and 30 bachelors were found with from one to three buckshot embedded in various parts of the body. Some of the resulting wounds were severe, but no deaths were directly traced to this cause.

In earlier times the ravages of the parasitic worm, *uncinaria*, were especially noticeable on the Tolstoi sand flat and portions of Zapadni, but in recent years, due to the shrinkage of the herd, these areas have been abandoned. Very few cases were noted by Dr. Chichester in 1909, and not one was detected this year. The dead pups dissected were seemingly in a perfectly normal condition, their emaciated appearance and empty alimentary canal indicating death from starvation.

AGES OF SEALS.

Last year 34 branded cows that had been marked as pups not later than 1902 were observed on the rookeries. This year 11 were seen prior to August 1, but during this time there is little opportunity to examine the cows critically, and later in the season such an examination would produce an unwarrantable disturbance on the rookeries. However, the fact is established that there are branded cows in existence, and the time of their disappearance and their possible age may be decided at a later date. It is interesting to note that two cows on St. George bore the T brand of 1899.

Practically every active bull on both islands was examined critically, but not a single brand was seen and none was reported by the Government agents or the natives. The branded bull on Kitovi, that last year completed his fifth season, has disappeared. Another bull, blind in one eye, occupied a site on Kitovi for the third season. In other years bulls with scars or other distinguishable marks have been seen at various stations, but these have rarely continued on the

active list for more than three or four seasons. It is therefore an established fact that under ordinary circumstances the male becomes active at 8 years of age and lives three or four years thereafter. The age of the female is not known with the same degree of certainty, but is commonly believed that she lives to the same age.

Appendix—Extract from Field Notes.

Commencing early in August, the harems begin to show signs of disorganization; the majority of the cows have been served and are free to come or go without serious let or hindrance; the idle and half bulls roam about at will and the breeding season thus passes into its last stage. From this time on observations producing no unwonted disturbance are to be made only from some place of concealment, such as are supplied by the cliffs of Ardiguen or Lukanin. To these two spots I repaired practically every day in August, and for varying lengths of time watched the life of the seal herd. It is unnecessary to detail observations that have already been recorded by several students of the subject, but I may voice again the general verdict that such a show of mammalian life is to be met with nowhere else on the face of the earth, and from several points of view it would indeed be a calamity if the seal meets the fate of the manatee, the sea otter, or the buffalo.

Concerning other life on the islands, much has been said and much remains to be investigated. For many years the bird life has received the attention of the ornithologist and the more important phases of the problems involved have probably been settled; yet there are other matters of minor detail relating to stray migrants, nest materials, and construction and feeding that well deserve attention.

The insects of the islands are numerous and of all the animals or plants doubtless afford some of the most important and interesting problems, if not the very greatest, of purely scientific character remaining to be solved. Owing to the brevity of the summer season, some of the stages in the life history are completed in a surprisingly short space of time, and a comparison of the life histories of related insects in adjoining regions would be interesting to say the least. Furthermore, the conditions under which they survive the winter will also be an interesting chapter in the life of the island organisms.

The flowering plants have been the subject of much study, and it is doubtful if many novelties will be recorded in the future. To a less extent this is true of the lichens, but there are unquestionably small species that have escaped detection; and again there are modifications due to habitat that make it altogether possible that superficially similar forms may in reality be distinct species. Among the fungi there are certainly new forms. On some of the upland slopes in the early season I have found species that do not correspond to any described in the reports of the region.

It is highly desirable that a museum be installed on the islands, containing, so far as is practicable, specimens of all the animals and plants. And equally desirable is a library, comprising all works that in any way are concerned with the biology of the country.

Finally, one word relating to the natives. Considering their antecedents, and especially their former mode of life and lack of advantages, these people have made truly remarkable strides, and yet there

is obviously room for improvement. By nature conservative, they are somewhat nonplastic, but at heart they are anxious to better their condition, and they do respond with comparative readiness to all uplifting influences. In matters relating to personal hygiene there is much to be desired, and, improved, their span of life will doubtless be lengthened to a very noticeable degree. And, again, it is highly desirable that during the long and confining winter both the men and women have something to occupy their time—something profitable and yet agreeable, and if possible with a resulting value in some larger community. It is difficult to decide what is best. Numerous plans have suggested themselves, but none of them are free from certain inherent difficulties, and I earnestly hope that those more competent may give the subject their serious consideration, for certainly this species of missionary work carries a rich reward.

In addition to the questions here outlined are others of deep import. Years ago Darwin called attention to the remarkable similarity of the animals on the Galapagos Islands to those on the western slope of South America, and on the basis of this likeness formulated his theory of evolution. Doubtless on the Pribilof Islands the same conditions exist when compared with others of the mainland. Extensive breeding experiments are being carried on in several sections of our country, but it is by no means certain that new species are created in the period measured by a man's life, or even in a hundred years. On the islands, however, in a normal habitat, evolutionary agencies have doubtless made their influence felt, even though the islands are geologically young. It seems therefore wise to make extensive collections of the island fauna and flora, to study these critically, and, finally, to compare them with related species on the mainland. These results might be very interesting when considered in connection with the newly formed island of Bogoslof. On this body of land, forced above the sea within the memory of man, we already find plants thriving, and there are doubtless animals on the land or along the shore. Even if there are no visible differences apparent between organisms on this island and those of the Aleutian chain, we may gain some insight into the means whereby their transportation has been accomplished, and if collections and careful notes are kept in the near future the evolutionary side of the subjects may be studied sometime in the years to come.

Part IV. Communications Relative to Supplies and Accounts.

Department of Commerce and Labor,
Bureau of Fisheries,
Washington, January 10, 1911.

The Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries,
Washington, D. C.

Sir: In submitting the inclosed return of ordnance, requested by the chief clerk of the department, it is respectfully stated that when the several articles mentioned thereon were received on the islands, it was not known that they were to be accounted for by a formal return, and no copy of the invoice was retained. It is not possible, for this reason, to state the totals of the various amounts of ammuni-

tion furnished the islands. A careful inventory has been made of the ammunition on hand, and the amounts placed at the foot of the appropriate columns in the inclosed return. By contrasting these with the amounts furnished (which, for the reasons stated, can not be supplied) it can readily be ascertained what has been expended on the islands for target practice and otherwise on official business.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries.

Equipment for Hotchkiss mountain gun, caliber 1.65 P. E.

	On hand from last return.	Total.	On hand to be accounted for on next return.
Hotchkiss mountain guns, caliber 1.65	5	5	5
Carriages for Hotchkiss mountain guns, caliber 1.65	5	5	5
Brushes and rods, sponge	5	5	5
Brushes, cleaning	5	5	5
Covers, breech	5	5	5
Cans, oil	5	5	5
Haversacks, gunners	5	5	5
Screw drivers, 5-inch, electric	5	5	5
Extractors, hand	5	5	5
Lanyards	5	5	5
Pliers	5	5	5
Tompions	5	5	5
Pins, dismounting	5	5	5
Wrenches, face-plate	5	5	5
Breech sights	5	5	5
Shafts (pairs)	5	5	5
Drag ropes	10	10	10
Paulins, 6 by 10 feet	5	5	5
Extractors	5	5	5
Pins, firing	10	10	10
Main springs	10	10	10
Stop bolts	5	5	5
Implements for Gatling guns, caliber .30, model 1897:			
Gatling gun, long, 10 barrels, caliber .30, model 1897	3	3	3
Metallic carriages for machine guns, model 1890	3	3	3
Metallic limbers for machine guns, model 1890	3	3	3
Can, oil	3	3	3
Cascable wrench	3	3	3
Drift	3	3	3
Feed guides, Bruce	6	6	6
Gun cover	3	3	3
Lever axis-pin nut wrenches	3	3	3
Lock screw drivers	3	3	3
Pin wrenches	3	3	3
Rear guide nut wrenches	3	3	3
Shell drivers	3	3	3
Screw drivers, small	3	3	3
Screw drivers, T	3	3	3
Wiping rods	3	3	3
Paulins, 12 by 12 feet	3	3	3
Axis pin, washer, and nut	3	3	3
Binder boxes, plates, pins, screws, washers, and keys	3	3	3
Extractors	6	6	6
Extractor screws	6	6	6
Firing pins	3	3	3
Firing-pin nut pins	3	3	3
Firing-pin bushing screws	3	3	3
Locks, complete	3	3	3
Mainsprings	3	3	3
Pointing levers	3	3	3
Ammunition, etc., Hotchkiss:			
Shells, cast-iron, fixed, 1.65 Hotchkiss mountain gun	.....	.....	336
Metal cartridge cases for Hotchkiss mountain gun, caliber 1.65, primed and filled	.....	.....	49
Felt wads, Hotchkiss mountain gun, caliber 1.65	.....	.....	80
Spare parts for United States magazine rifles, caliber .30, model 1898:			
United States magazine rifles, caliber .30, model 1898	60	60	60
Screw drivers, model 1897	12	12	12
Bayonets, rifle, model 1898	47	47	47
Small-arms oilers	49	49	49

Equipment for Hotchkiss mountain gun, caliber 1.65 P. E.—Continued.

	On hand from last return.	Total.	On hand to be accounted for on next return.
Spare parts for United States magazine rifles, caliber .30, model 1898—Con.			
Front sight and muzzle covers	43	43	43
Cleaning rods, second and third sections	61	61	61
Cleaning rods, first section	68	68	68
Barrack cleaning rods	6	6	6
Breech covers, caliber .30	43	43	45
Bolts	5	5	3
Butt plates	2	2	2
Butt plate caps	4	4	4
Butt plate cap pins	4	4	4
Butt plate cap springs	6	6	6
Butt plate cap spring screws	4	4	4
Butt plate screws, large	2	2	2
Butt plate screws, small	2	2	2
Butt swivel plates, complete	2	2	2
Carriers	4	4	4
Cut-offs	4	4	4
Ejectors	4	4	4
Ejector pins	8	8	8
Extractors	4	4	4
Extractor pins	4	4	4
Extractor rivets	4	4	4
Extractor springs	4	4	4
Firing pins	4	4	4
Followers	4	4	4
Follower pins	4	4	4
Front sights	4	4	4
Front sight pins	6	6	6
Gates	4	4	4
Guard	2	2	2
Guard screws, rear	2	2	2
Guard screws, front	2	2	2
Hinge bars	4	4	4
Lower bands	4	4	4
Lower band pins	2	2	2
Lower band swivels	4	4	4
Lower band swivel screws	6	6	6
Rebound levers	3	3	3
Rebound lever springs	3	3	3
Rebound lever spring pins	2	2	2
Side plate screws	8	8	8
Stocks, right	4	4	4
Stocks, left	4	4	4
Stock screws	2	2	2
Triggers	4	4	4
Gun slings, rifle, model 1898	43	43	43
Cartridge belts, infantry, caliber .30			
Rifle cartridge belts, caliber .30, model 1903	43	43	43
Bayonet scabbards, model 1899	61	61	61
Ball cartridges, rifle, caliber .30, model 1898			8,604
Revolver ball cartridges, caliber .38			1,541
Powder, saluting (pounds)			203
Percussion primers, 20-grain, No. 3			60
Reloading tools, 1.65 Hotchkiss mountain gun (sets)	2	2	2
Arm chests	8	8	8
Fasteners for rifle cartridge belts	25	25	25
Cartridge belt suspenders	25	25	25
Magazine springs	8	8	8
Mainsprings	4	4	4
Safety locks	4	4	4
Sears	2	2	2
Sear springs	4	4	4
Hand guards	4	4	4
Side plates	2	2	2
Side plate screws	4	4	4
Sleeves	4	4	4
Stacking swivels	4	4	4
Stacking swivel screws	6	6	6
Stocks	20	20	20
Strikers	4	4	4
Trigger	2	2	2
Trigger pins	2	2	2
Upper band	2	2	2
Upper band screws	4	4	4
Rear sight fixed base	2	2	2
Rear sight movable base	2	2	2
Rear sight base screws, front	4	4	4
Rear sight base screws, rear	4	4	4

Equipment for Hotchkiss mountain gun, caliber 1.65 P. E.—Continued.

	On hand from last return.	Total.	On hand to be accounted for on next return.
Spare parts for United States magazine rifles, caliber .30, model 1898—Con.			
Rear sight base screw washer	2	2	2
Rear sight base springs	6	6	6
Rear sight base spring screws	8	8	8
Rear sight leaves	4	4	4
Rear sight leaf slide bodies	6	6	6
Rear sight drift slides	4	4	4
Rear sight drift slide pins	4	4	4
Rear sight joint pins	4	4	4
Rear sight binders	4	4	4
Rear sight binder screws	20	20	20
Rear sight friction springs	4	4	4
Spare parts for Colt's revolvers, caliber .38, model 1901:			
Colt's revolvers, caliber .38, model 1901	24	24	24
Screw drivers for Colt's revolvers, model 1901	40	40	40
Crane locks	2	2	2
Crane lock screws	4	4	4
Cylinder bolts with spring assembled	2	2	2
Cylinder bolt springs	4	4	4
Ejector rod heads	4	4	4
Hammers with strut, strut pin, and strut spring assembled	2	2	2
Hammer stirrups	2	2	2
Hammer stirrup pins	2	2	2
Hammer strut springs	4	4	4
Handsprings	4	4	4
Latch pins	2	2	2
Latch springs	4	4	4
Locking levers	2	2	2
Locking lever screws	2	2	2
Mainsprings	4	4	4
Mainspring tension screws	4	4	4

Serial numbers of United States magazine rifles, caliber .30, model 1898, on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska:

On St. Paul (37): 212816, 373362, 379693, 380895, 382619, 374209, 380694, 383337, 379908, 379688, 212422, 372870, 378700, 378644, 382828, 379607, 382876, 380106, 379608, 379670, 382059, 379992, 212444, 208449, 213315, 374749, 214881, 206711, 378374, 213306, 378908, 211369, 213843, 381257, 380119, 212755, 214852.

On St. George (23): 436488, 380734, 435351, 376997, 380906, 379865, 380689, 380448, 380737, 381134, 380167, 376398, 379722, 436018, 435128, 380427, 212242, 435449, 214126, 380122, 213615, 211338, 211711.

Serial numbers of Colt's revolvers, caliber .38, model 1901:

On St. Paul (18): 1271, 2255, 1859, 1942, 562, 1393, 1238, 1337, 9412, 1224, 2180, 5555, 1271, 97, 6219, 815, 3717, 5069.

On St. George (6): 3446, 3661, 6604, 7213, 7618, 9933.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, February 11, 1911.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to bring to your attention the matter of providing a vessel for carrying supplies to the Pribilof Islands during the coming season, and respectfully remind you of an informal discussion of this subject at the House Committee on Appropriations at which the opinion was expressed that a Government vessel should be obtained for this purpose.

In the opinion of this bureau it is improbable that any vessel now owned by the Government is available or can be made suitable for this service for the present season; but it is suggested that the department may wish to take the matter up with other departments in order to be assured that there is no appropriate Government vessel now on the west coast that may be assigned to this work.

Vessels of the Revenue-Cutter Service and the Navy are not provided with facilities for carrying cargoes, lacking both space and hatchways of suitable size; and if the use of such a vessel were desired it could not be adapted for our purposes without the expenditure of considerable time and money. A cargo capacity of at least 500 tons of crated and boxed stores is necessary.

Should the department be unable to secure for the current season a vessel from some other branch of the Government service, the bureau requests that it be allowed to arrange for the charter of a merchant vessel, following the plan that was adopted last season.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

Charter with option to buy, applying charter money on purchase price.

C. N.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 2, 1911.

The SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for acceptance a charter, in triplicate, covering the steamer *Homer* for the Alaska fisheries service for the ensuing season. This is similar to the charter entered into last year for the same vessel.

Respectfully,

GEO. M. BOWERS,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 23, 1911.

Memorandum to assistant in charge Division of Scientific Inquiry.

Inclosed for your information is a communication received from the chief of the Division of Supplies relative to material to be shipped to the Pribilof Islands, which explains itself. Please see that the fur-seal agents thoroughly understand this matter and are governed by the request of Mr. Fowler. The reason for this request is obvious.

It is also called to your attention that if there are any further supplies to be ordered through the department the requisition should be sent in without delay.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

[Copy.]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
DIVISION OF SUPPLIES,
Washington, March 22, 1911.

CHIEF CLERK,
Bureau of Fisheries,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed are invoices for all supplies requested by requisitions from your bureau, same to be shipped to the Pribilof Islands.

These invoices cover all the goods for which you have made requisition, and it is earnestly requested that the fur-seal agents be impressed with the duty of receipting these invoices and sending them back by the first boat from the islands. This request is made for the reason that the invoices represent a value of about $1,230, and in order to get reimbursement from your appropriation it is necessary for me first to have the receipted invoices.

The safe will be shipped from Toledo, Ohio, and the ammunition from New York City this week.

Very truly, yours,

(Signed) WILBUR W. FOWLER,
Chief of Division.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, March 23, 1911.

CHIEF, DIVISION OF SUPPLIES,
Department of Commerce and Labor,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 22, inclosing invoices of supplies to be shipped to the Pribilof Islands. Inclosed for your information is copy of a memorandum addressed this day to the Chief of the Division of Scientific Inquiry of this bureau which is self-explanatory.

Very truly, yours, I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK,
Washington, April 12, 1911.

SIR: Replying to your letter of the 5th instant, I beg to state that it is desired to render accurate returns to the War Department of ordnance with which this department is charged, including that on the Pribilof Islands.

In order to accomplish this end it is requested that as soon as practicable after reaching the islands the agents make another inventory of the ordnance in their charge, making particular search for the magazine rifle and the various small parts mentioned in my letter of February 25, 1911.

In order to avoid error it is further requested that the agents give their personal attention to the taking of this inventory and forward the same to the department by the first mail.

Respectfully,

ROBT. M. PINDELL, Jr.,
Chief Clerk.

THE COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 13, 1911.

CHIEF CLERK,
Department of Commerce and Labor.

SIR: The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 12, relative to accurate returns to the War Department of the ordnance with which the Department of Commerce and Labor is charged, including the Pribilof Islands. The necessary instructions have been issued to the chief of the division who is charged with the Alaska fisheries service to carry out the department's wishes.

By direction of the commissioner.

Respectfully, I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk.*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 13, 1911.

Memorandum to Dr. Evermann.

Herewith is copy of a letter from the chief clerk of the department, which explains itself, relative to accounting for ordnance stores belonging to the War Department with which this bureau is charged. Please give the necessary instructions to Mr. Lembkey and the clerk of your division who has charge of keeping account of property.

I. H. DUNLAP, *Chief Clerk*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, April 17, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent Seal Fisheries, New Federal Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: Regarding your request to have the Remington typewriter which is at this office shipped to San Francisco for your use, you are informed that it is not considered advisable to do so. You are instructed to submit a requisition for the machine you desire and make the purchase in San Francisco.

Respectfully, H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 4, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
Room 328, Customhouse Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: There are being sent to you in to-day's mail to the above address five small packages containing orders on storekeepers for Alaska Fisheries Service.

The entire lot of 200 was received at the office to-day and a few of these will be sent to you from day to day.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

P. S.—Should mail be addressed to you as above or to room 328, Appraiser's Building?

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
Washington, May 6, 1911.

Mr. W. I. LEMBKEY,
New Federal Building, San Francisco, Cal.

SIR: The stationery and miscellaneous supplies for St. Paul and St. George islands are now in the custody of the assistant quartermaster, United States Army, at Seattle, Wash., and will be taken up to the islands on the revenue cutter *Tahoma*.

Respectfully,

H. M. SMITH,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
San Francisco, Cal., May 20, 1911.

COMMISSIONER OF FISHERIES,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have respectfully to state that Collector Stratton, the custodian of the United States Customhouse Building, called upon me recently and requested a decision as to the permanent occupancy by the bureau of room 328 now held by us, as well as of room 327, which the collector also offered to the bureau. I could tell him only that the matter had been submitted to the bureau, since which I had not been advised of any decision. The collector stated orally that he would appreciate information as to the bureau's intention concerning the occupancy of the rooms. I respectfully report the matter.

Respectfully,

W. I. LEMBKEY,
Agent, Seal Fisheries.

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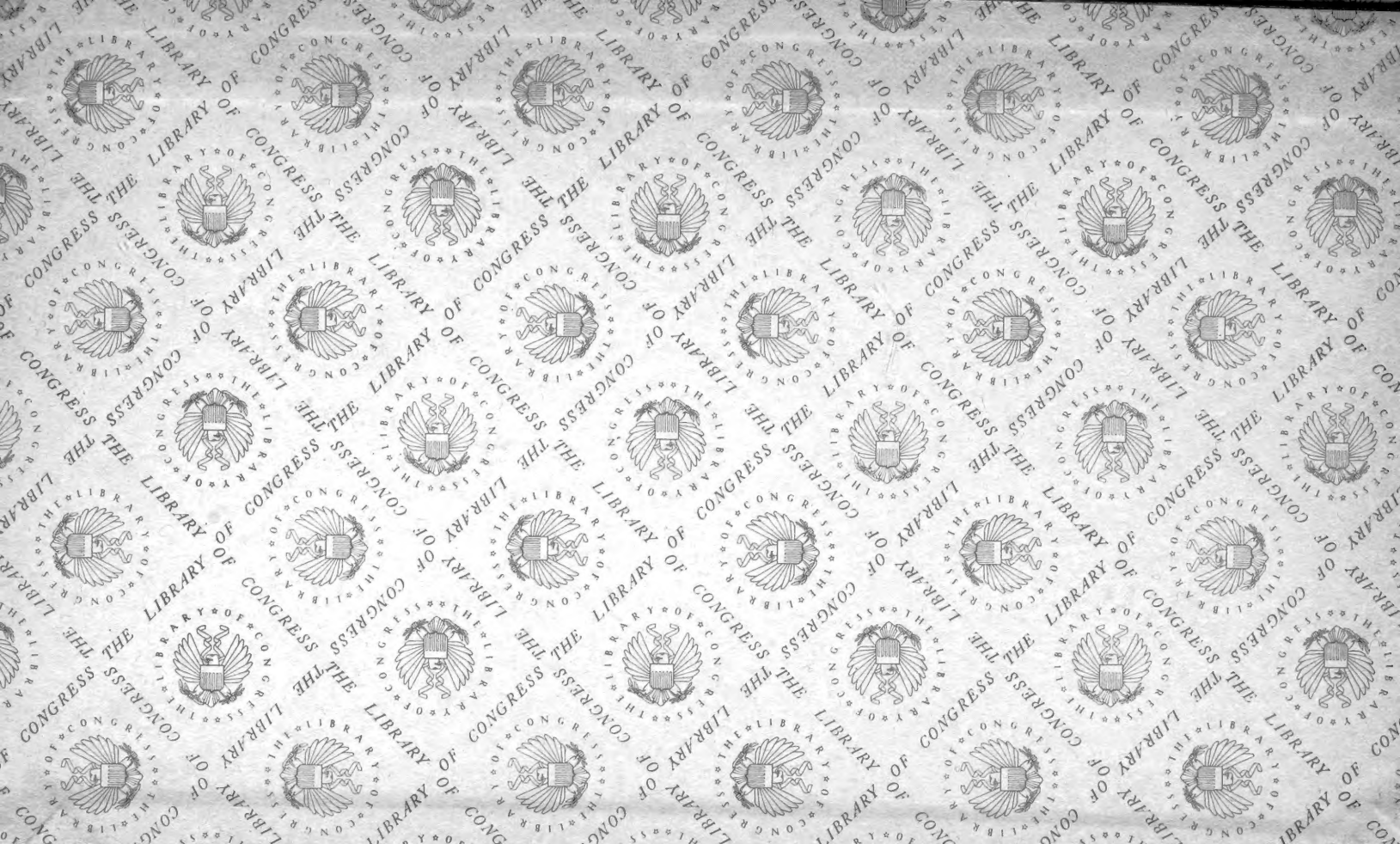
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